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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C12N 9/00	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/55600 (43) International Publication Date: 10 December 1998 (10.12.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/11178 (22) International Filing Date: 2 June 1998 (02.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/867,676 2 June 1997 (02.06.97) US (63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application US 08/867,676 (CON) Filed on 2 June 1997 (02.06.97) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INCYTE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US]; 3174 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BANDMAN, Olga [US/US]; 366 Anna Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94304 (US). LAL, Preeti [IN/US]; 2382 Lass Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95054 (US). CORLEY, Neil, C. [US/US]; 1240 Dale Avenue #30, Mountain View, CA 94040 (US). (74) Agent: BILLINGS, Lucy, J.; Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 3174 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US).	(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BR, CA, CH, CN, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, IL, JP, KR, MX, NO, NZ, RU, SE, SG, US, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.	
(54) Title: NEW HUMAN RIBONUCLEASE <pre> 1 MVLCFPLLLLLLLVLWGPPVCPLHAWPKRLTKAHWFEEIQHIQ 2181484 1 MVLCFPLLLLLLLVLWGPPVCPLHAWPKRLTKAHWFEEIQHIQ GI 1513102 41 PSPLOCNRAMSGINNYTQHCKHQNTFLHDSFQNVAAVCDL 2181484 41 PSPLOCNRAMSGINNYTQHCKHQNTFLHDSFQNVAAVCDL GI 1513102 81 LSIIVCKNRRHNC HQSSKPVNMTDCRLTSGKYPOCRYSA AAA 2181484 81 LSIIVCKNRRHNC HQSSKPVNMTDCRLTSGKYPOCRYSA AAA GI 1513102 121 QYKFFIVACGPPFERKRRFPLTSLVPVHLD S NSLRHCISF 2181484 121 QYKFFIVACGPPFERKRRFPLTSLVPVHLD S NSLRHCISF GI 1513102 161 HLT 2181484 149 - I L GI 1513102 </pre>		
(57) Abstract The invention provides a human ribonuclease (HURIBO) and polynucleotides which identify and encode HURIBO. The invention also provides expression vectors, host cells, agonists, antibodies and antagonists. The invention also provides methods for treating disorders associated with expression of HURIBO.		

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NEW HUMAN RIBONUCLEASE

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of a new human ribonuclease and to the use of these sequences in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of inflammation and disorders associated with cell proliferation and apoptosis.

BACKGROUND ART

Ribonucleases are proteins which catalyze the hydrolysis of phosphodiester bonds in RNA chains. They have similar primary structures and catalytic mechanisms. The RNA bonds hydrolyzed are ones between phosphorus and 5' oxygen atoms, generating a free 5'-OH group and a free 3'-phosphate group as new termini. The hydrolysis proceeds through an essential 2',3'-cyclic phosphate intermediate unique to RNA sequences. Although ribonucleases also have affinity for DNA sequences, hydrolysis does not occur because DNA lacks a 2'-hydroxyl group important for the formation of the 2',3'-cyclic phosphate intermediate. Four disulfide bonds, two histidine residues, and one lysine residue are highly conserved among ribonucleases and are important for catalysis.

Ribonucleases have evolved to support a variety of other physiological activities in addition to their function in hydrolysis of RNA. Such activities include anti-parasite, anti-bacterium, anti-virus, anti-neoplastic activities, neurotoxicity, and angiogenesis. For example, bovine seminal ribonuclease is anti-neoplastic (Laccetti, P. et al. (1992) Cancer Res. 52:4582-4586). Some frog ribonucleases display both anti-viral and anti-neoplastic activity (Youle, R. J. et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:6012-6016; Mikulski, S. M. et al. (1990) J. Natl. Cancer Inst. 82:151-152; and Wu, Y.-N. et al. (1993) J. Biol. Chem. 268:10686-10693). Angiogenin is a tRNA-specific ribonuclease which binds actin on the surface of endothelial cells for endocytosis. Endocytosed angiogenin is translocated to the nucleus where it promotes endothelial invasiveness required for blood vessel formation (Moroianu, J. and Riordan, J.F. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:1677-81). Eosinophil-derived neurotoxin (EDN) and eosinophil cationic protein (ECP) are related ribonucleases which possess neurotoxicity (Beintema, J.J. et al. (1988) Biochemistry 27:4530-4538; Ackerman, S. J. (1993) In Makino, S. and Fukuda, T., Eosinophils: Biological and Clinical Aspects. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, pp 33-74). In addition, ECP exhibits cytotoxic, anti-parasitic, and anti-bacterial activities. A EDN-related ribonuclease, named RNase k6, is shown to express in normal human monocytes and neutrophils, suggesting a role for this ribonuclease in host defense (Rosenberg, H. F. and Dyer, K.

D. (1996) Nuc. Acid. Res. 24:3507-3513).

The discovery of a new human ribonuclease and the polynucleotides encoding it satisfies a need in the art by providing new compositions which are useful in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of inflammation and disorders associated with cell proliferation and apoptosis.

5 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The invention features a substantially purified polypeptide, human ribonuclease (HURIBO), having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments thereof.

The invention further provides an isolated and substantially purified polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or
10 fragments thereof. In a particular aspect, the polynucleotide is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or variants thereof.

In addition, the invention provides a polynucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In another aspect the invention provides a composition comprising an isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence
15 encoding HURIBO.

The invention further provides a polynucleotide sequence comprising the complement of the polynucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments or variants thereof. In a particular aspect, the polynucleotide sequence is the complement of SEQ ID NO:2. In another aspect the invention provides a composition comprising an isolated and
20 purified polynucleotide sequence comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:2, or fragments or variants thereof.

The present invention further provides an expression vector containing at least a fragment of any of the claimed polynucleotide sequences. In yet another aspect, the expression vector containing the polynucleotide sequence is contained within a host cell.

25 The invention also provides a method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof, the method comprising the steps of: a) culturing the host cell containing an expression vector containing at least a fragment of the polynucleotide sequence encoding HURIBO under conditions suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and b) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

30 The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a substantially purified HURIBO having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

The invention also provides a purified antagonist which decreases the activity of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1. In one aspect the invention provides a purified antibody which binds to a polypeptide comprising at least a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5 Still further, the invention provides a purified agonist which modulates the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1.

The invention also features methods for treating or preventing inflammation or a disorder associated with excessive cell proliferation by administering HURIBO, and for treating or preventing an disorder associated with apoptosis or for stimulating cell proliferation by
10 administering an antagonist of HURIBO.

The invention also provides a method for detecting a polynucleotide which encodes HURIBO in a biological sample comprising the steps of: a) hybridizing a polynucleotide sequence complementary to HURIBO (SEQ ID NO:1) to nucleic acid material of a biological sample, thereby forming a hybridization complex; and b) detecting the hybridization complex,
15 wherein the presence of the complex correlates with the presence of a polynucleotide encoding HURIBO in the biological sample. In a preferred embodiment, prior to hybridization, the nucleic acid material of the biological sample is amplified by the polymerase chain reaction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C show the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and nucleic acid
20 sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of HURIBO. The alignment was produced using MacDNASIS PRO™ software (Hitachi Software Engineering Co. Ltd. San Bruno, CA).

Figure 2 shows the amino acid sequence alignments between HURIBO (SEQ ID NO:1) and RNase k6 (GI 1513102; SEQ ID NO:3), produced using the multisequence alignment program of DNASTAR™ software (DNASTAR Inc, Madison WI).

25 Figures 3A and 3B show the hydrophobicity plots for HURIBO, SEQ ID NO: 1 and RNase k6 (SEQ ID NO:3), respectively. The positive X axis reflects amino acid position, and the negative Y axis, hydrophobicity (MacDNASIS PRO software).

MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Before the present proteins, nucleotide sequences, and methods are described, it is
30 understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols, cell lines, vectors, and reagents described, as these may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not

intended to limit the scope of the present invention which will be limited only by the appended claims.

It must be noted that as used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an", and "the" include plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to "a host cell" includes a plurality of such host cells, reference to the "antibody" is a reference to one or more antibodies and equivalents thereof known to those skilled in the art, and so forth.

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meanings as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, the preferred methods, devices, and materials are now described. All publications mentioned herein are incorporated herein by reference for the purpose of describing and disclosing the cell lines, vectors, and methodologies which are reported in the publications which might be used in connection with the invention. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the invention is not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention.

DEFINITIONS

HURIBO, as used herein, refers to the amino acid sequences of substantially purified HURIBO obtained from any species, particularly mammalian, including bovine, ovine, porcine, murine, equine, and preferably human, from any source whether natural, synthetic, semi-synthetic, or recombinant.

The term "agonist", as used herein, refers to a molecule which, when bound to HURIBO, increases or prolongs the duration of the effect of HURIBO. Agonists may include proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, or any other molecules which bind to and modulate the effect of HURIBO.

An "allele" or "allelic sequence", as used herein, is an alternative form of the gene encoding HURIBO. Alleles may result from at least one mutation in the nucleic acid sequence and may result in altered mRNAs or polypeptides whose structure or function may or may not be altered. Any given natural or recombinant gene may have none, one, or many allelic forms.

Common mutational changes which give rise to alleles are generally ascribed to natural deletions, additions, or substitutions of nucleotides. Each of these types of changes may occur alone, or in combination with the others, one or more times in a given sequence.

"Altered" nucleic acid sequences encoding HURIBO as used herein include those with

deletions, insertions, or substitutions of different nucleotides resulting in a polynucleotide that encodes the same or a functionally equivalent HURIBO. Included within this definition are polymorphisms which may or may not be readily detectable using a particular oligonucleotide probe of the polynucleotide encoding HURIBO, and improper or unexpected hybridization to alleles, with a locus other than the normal chromosomal locus for the polynucleotide sequence encoding HURIBO. The encoded protein may also be "altered" and contain deletions, insertions, or substitutions of amino acid residues which produce a silent change and result in a functionally equivalent HURIBO. Deliberate amino acid substitutions may be made on the basis of similarity in polarity, charge, solubility, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues as long as the biological or immunological activity of HURIBO is retained. For example, negatively charged amino acids may include aspartic acid and glutamic acid; positively charged amino acids may include lysine and arginine; and amino acids with uncharged polar head groups having similar hydrophilicity values may include leucine, isoleucine, and valine, glycine and alanine, asparagine and glutamine, serine and threonine, and phenylalanine and tyrosine.

"Amino acid sequence" as used herein refers to an oligopeptide, peptide, polypeptide, or protein sequence, and fragment thereof, and to naturally occurring or synthetic molecules. Fragments of HURIBO are preferably about 5 to about 15 amino acids in length and retain the biological activity or the immunological activity of HURIBO. Where "amino acid sequence" is recited herein to refer to an amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring protein molecule, amino acid sequence, and like terms, are not meant to limit the amino acid sequence to the complete, native amino acid sequence associated with the recited protein molecule.

"Amplification" as used herein refers to the production of additional copies of a nucleic acid sequence and is generally carried out using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technologies well known in the art (Dieffenbach, C.W. and G.S. Dveksler (1995) PCR Primer, a Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Plainview, NY).

The term "antagonist" as used herein, refers to a molecule which, when bound to HURIBO, decreases the amount or the duration of the effect of the biological or immunological activity of HURIBO. Antagonists may include proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, or any other molecules which and decrease the effect of HURIBO.

As used herein, the term "antibody" refers to intact molecules as well as fragments thereof, such as Fa, F(ab')₂, and Fv, which are capable of binding the epitopic determinant. Antibodies that bind HURIBO polypeptides can be prepared using intact polypeptides or fragments containing small peptides of interest as the immunizing antigen. The polypeptide or

oligopeptide used to immunize an animal can be derived from the translation of RNA or synthesized chemically and can be conjugated to a carrier protein, if desired. Commonly used carriers that are chemically coupled to peptides include bovine serum albumin and thyroglobulin, keyhole limpet hemocyanin. The coupled peptide is then used to immunize the animal (e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a rabbit).

The term "antigenic determinant", as used herein, refers to that fragment of a molecule (i.e., an epitope) that makes contact with a particular antibody. When a protein or fragment of a protein is used to immunize a host animal, numerous regions of the protein may induce the production of antibodies which bind specifically to a given region or three-dimensional structure on the protein; these regions or structures are referred to as antigenic determinants. An antigenic determinant may compete with the intact antigen (i.e., the immunogen used to elicit the immune response) for binding to an antibody.

The term "antisense", as used herein, refers to any composition containing nucleotide sequences which are complementary to a specific DNA or RNA sequence. The term "antisense strand" is used in reference to a nucleic acid strand that is complementary to the "sense" strand. Antisense molecules include peptide nucleic acids and may be produced by any method including synthesis or transcription. Once introduced into a cell, the complementary nucleotides combine with natural sequences produced by the cell to form duplexes and block either transcription or translation. The designation "negative" is sometimes used in reference to the antisense strand, and "positive" is sometimes used in reference to the sense strand.

The term "biologically active", as used herein, refers to a protein having structural, regulatory, or biochemical functions of a naturally occurring molecule. Likewise, "immunologically active" refers to the capability of the natural, recombinant, or synthetic HURIBO, or any oligopeptide thereof, to induce a specific immune response in appropriate animals or cells and to bind with specific antibodies.

The terms "complementary" or "complementarity", as used herein, refer to the natural binding of polynucleotides under permissive salt and temperature conditions by base-pairing. For example, the sequence "A-G-T" binds to the complementary sequence "T-C-A".

Complementarity between two single-stranded molecules may be "partial", in which only some of the nucleic acids bind, or it may be complete when total complementarity exists between the single stranded molecules. The degree of complementarity between nucleic acid strands has significant effects on the efficiency and strength of hybridization between nucleic acid strands. This is of particular importance in amplification reactions, which depend upon binding between

nucleic acids strands and in the design and use of PNA molecules.

A "composition comprising a given polynucleotide sequence" as used herein refers broadly to any composition containing the given polynucleotide sequence. The composition may comprise a dry formulation or an aqueous solution. Compositions comprising polynucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO (SEQ ID NO:1) or fragments thereof (e.g., SEQ ID NO:2 and fragments thereof) may be employed as hybridization probes. The probes may be stored in freeze-dried form and may be associated with a stabilizing agent such as a carbohydrate. In hybridizations, the probe may be deployed in an aqueous solution containing salts (e.g., NaCl), detergents (e.g., SDS) and other components (e.g., Denhardt's solution, dry milk, salmon sperm DNA, etc.).

"Consensus", as used herein, refers to a nucleic acid sequence which has been resequenced to resolve uncalled bases, has been extended using XL-PCR™ (Perkin Elmer, Norwalk, CT) in the 5' and/or the 3' direction and resequenced, or has been assembled from the overlapping sequences of more than one Incyte Clone using a computer program for fragment assembly (e.g., GELVIEW™ Fragment Assembly system, GCG, Madison, WI). Some sequences have been both extended and assembled to produce the consensus sequence.

The term "correlates with expression of a polynucleotide", as used herein, indicates that the detection of the presence of ribonucleic acid that is similar to SEQ ID NO:2 by northern analysis is indicative of the presence of mRNA encoding HURIBO in a sample and thereby correlates with expression of the transcript from the polynucleotide encoding the protein.

A "deletion", as used herein, refers to a change in the amino acid or nucleotide sequence and results in the absence of one or more amino acid residues or nucleotides.

The term "derivative", as used herein, refers to the chemical modification of a nucleic acid encoding or complementary to HURIBO or the encoded HURIBO. Such modifications include, for example, replacement of hydrogen by an alkyl, acyl, or amino group. A nucleic acid derivative encodes a polypeptide which retains the biological or immunological function of the natural molecule. A derivative polypeptide is one which is modified by glycosylation, pegylation, or any similar process which retains the biological or immunological function of the polypeptide from which it was derived.

The term "homology", as used herein, refers to a degree of complementarity. There may be partial homology or complete homology (i.e., identity). A partially complementary sequence that at least partially inhibits an identical sequence from hybridizing to a target nucleic acid is referred to using the functional term "substantially homologous." The inhibition of hybridization

of the completely complementary sequence to the target sequence may be examined using a hybridization assay (Southern or northern blot, solution hybridization and the like) under conditions of low stringency. A substantially homologous sequence or hybridization probe will compete for and inhibit the binding of a completely homologous sequence to the target sequence under conditions of low stringency. This is not to say that conditions of low stringency are such that non-specific binding is permitted; low stringency conditions require that the binding of two sequences to one another be a specific (i.e., selective) interaction. The absence of non-specific binding may be tested by the use of a second target sequence which lacks even a partial degree of complementarity (e.g., less than about 30% identity). In the absence of non-specific binding, the probe will not hybridize to the second non-complementary target sequence.

Human artificial chromosomes (HACs) are linear microchromosomes which may contain DNA sequences of 10K to 10M in size and contain all of the elements required for stable mitotic chromosome segregation and maintenance (Harrington, J.J. et al. (1997) Nat Genet. 15:345-355).

The term "humanized antibody", as used herein, refers to antibody molecules in which amino acids have been replaced in the non-antigen binding regions in order to more closely resemble a human antibody, while still retaining the original binding ability.

The term "hybridization", as used herein, refers to any process by which a strand of nucleic acid binds with a complementary strand through base pairing.

The term "hybridization complex", as used herein, refers to a complex formed between two nucleic acid sequences by virtue of the formation of hydrogen bonds between complementary G and C bases and between complementary A and T bases. These hydrogen bonds may be further stabilized by base stacking interactions. The two complementary nucleic acid sequences hydrogen bond in an antiparallel configuration. A hybridization complex may be formed in solution (e.g., C_0t or R_0t analysis) or between one nucleic acid sequence present in solution and another nucleic acid sequence immobilized on a solid support (e.g., paper, membranes, filters, chips, pins or glass slides, or any other appropriate substrate to which cells or their nucleic acids have been fixed).

An "insertion" or "addition", as used herein, refers to a change in an amino acid or nucleotide sequence resulting in the addition of one or more amino acid residues or nucleotides, respectively, as compared to the naturally occurring molecule.

"Microarray" refers to a high-density array of distinct polynucleotides or oligonucleotides synthesized on a substrate, such as paper, nylon or other type of membrane, filter, chip, glass slide, or any other suitable solid support.

The term "modulate", as used herein, refers to a change in the activity of HURIBO. For example, modulation may cause an increase or a decrease in protein activity, binding characteristics, or any other biological, functional or immunological properties of HURIBO.

"Nucleic acid sequence" as used herein refers to an oligonucleotide, nucleotide, or polynucleotide, and fragments thereof, and to DNA or RNA of genomic or synthetic origin which may be single- or double-stranded, and represent the sense or antisense strand. "Fragments" are those nucleic acid sequences which are greater than 60 nucleotides in length, and most preferably includes fragments that are at least 100 nucleotides or at least 1000 nucleotides, and at least 10,000 nucleotides in length.

The term "oligonucleotide" refers to a nucleic acid sequence of at least about 6 nucleotides to about 60 nucleotides, preferably about 15 to 30 nucleotides, and more preferably about 20 to 25 nucleotides, which can be used in PCR amplification or hybridization assays. As used herein, oligonucleotide is substantially equivalent to the terms "amplimers", "primers", "oligomers", and "probes", as commonly defined in the art.

"Peptide nucleic acid", PNA as used herein, refers to an antisense molecule or anti-gene agent which comprises an oligonucleotide of at least five nucleotides in length linked to a peptide backbone of amino acid residues which ends in lysine. The terminal lysine confers solubility to the composition. PNAs may be pegylated to extend their lifespan in the cell where they preferentially bind complementary single stranded DNA and RNA and stop transcript elongation (Nielsen, P.E. et al. (1993) Anticancer Drug Des. 8:53-63).

The term "portion", as used herein, with regard to a protein (as in "a portion of a given protein") refers to fragments of that protein. The fragments may range in size from five amino acid residues to the entire amino acid sequence minus one amino acid. Thus, a protein "comprising at least a portion of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1" encompasses the full-length HURIBO and fragments thereof.

The term "sample", as used herein, is used in its broadest sense. A biological sample suspected of containing nucleic acid encoding HURIBO, or fragments thereof, or HURIBO itself may comprise a bodily fluid, extract from a cell, chromosome, organelle, or membrane isolated from a cell, a cell, genomic DNA, RNA, or cDNA (in solution or bound to a solid support, a tissue, a tissue print, and the like).

The terms "specific binding" or "specifically binding", as used herein, refers to that interaction between a protein or peptide and an agonist, an antibody and an antagonist. The interaction is dependent upon the presence of a particular structure (i.e., the antigenic determinant

or epitope) of the protein recognized by the binding molecule. For example, if an antibody is specific for epitope "A", the presence of a protein containing epitope A (or free, unlabeled A) in a reaction containing labeled "A" and the antibody will reduce the amount of labeled A bound to the antibody.

5 The terms "stringent conditions" or "stringency", as used herein, refer to the conditions for hybridization as defined by the nucleic acid, salt, and temperature. These conditions are well known in the art and may be altered in order to identify or detect identical or related polynucleotide sequences. Numerous equivalent conditions comprising either low or high stringency depend on factors such as the length and nature of the sequence (DNA, RNA, base
10 composition), nature of the target (DNA, RNA, base composition), milieu (in solution or immobilized on a solid substrate), concentration of salts and other components (e.g., formamide, dextran sulfate and/or polyethylene glycol), and temperature of the reactions (within a range from about 5°C below the melting temperature of the probe to about 20°C to 25°C below the melting temperature). One or more factors may be varied to generate conditions of either low or high
15 stringency different from, but equivalent to, the above listed conditions.

 The term "substantially purified", as used herein, refers to nucleic or amino acid sequences that are removed from their natural environment, isolated or separated, and are at least 60% free, preferably 75% free, and most preferably 90% free from other components with which they are naturally associated.

20 A "substitution", as used herein, refers to the replacement of one or more amino acids or nucleotides by different amino acids or nucleotides, respectively.

 "Transformation", as defined herein, describes a process by which exogenous DNA enters and changes a recipient cell. It may occur under natural or artificial conditions using various methods well known in the art. Transformation may rely on any known method for the insertion
25 of foreign nucleic acid sequences into a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell. The method is selected based on the type of host cell being transformed and may include, but is not limited to, viral infection, electroporation, heat shock, lipofection, and particle bombardment. Such "transformed" cells include stably transformed cells in which the inserted DNA is capable of replication either as an autonomously replicating plasmid or as part of the host chromosome.
30 They also include cells which transiently express the inserted DNA or RNA for limited periods of time.

 A "variant" of HURIBO, as used herein, refers to an amino acid sequence that is altered by one or more amino acids. The variant may have "conservative" changes, wherein a substituted

amino acid has similar structural or chemical properties, e.g., replacement of leucine with isoleucine. More rarely, a variant may have "nonconservative" changes, e.g., replacement of a glycine with a tryptophan. Analogous minor variations may also include amino acid deletions or insertions, or both. Guidance in determining which amino acid residues may be substituted, inserted, or deleted without abolishing biological or immunological activity may be found using computer programs well known in the art, for example, DNASTAR software.

THE INVENTION

The invention is based on the discovery of a new human ribonuclease (hereinafter referred to as "HURIBO"), the polynucleotides encoding HURIBO, and the use of these compositions for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of inflammation and disorders associated with cell proliferation and apoptosis.

Nucleic acids encoding the HURIBO of the present invention were first identified in Incyte Clone 2181484 from the ileum tissue cDNA library (SININOT01) using a computer search for amino acid sequence alignments. A consensus sequence, SEQ ID NO:2, was derived from the following overlapping and/or extended nucleic acid sequences: Incyte Clones 364446 (PROSNOT01), 2181484 (SININOT01), and 1711221 (PROSNOT16).

In one embodiment, the invention encompasses a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, as shown in Figures 1A-C. HURIBO is 163 amino acids in length. It has a ribonuclease family signature encompassing C60-F66, eight conserved cysteine residues at C46, C60, C78, C85, C92, C104, C114, and C129, two conserved histidine residues at H38 and H147, and a conserved lysine residue at K61. These conserved residues are essential for the nuclease activity of HURIBO. In addition, HURIBO has two potential N-glycosylation sites at N55 and N100, one potential cAMP- and cGMP-dependent protein kinase phosphorylation sites encompassing K26-T29, one leucine zipper motif encompassing residues L7-L21, and three protein kinase C phosphorylation sites encompassing S95-K97, S108-K110, and S152-R154. As shown in Figure 2, HURIBO has chemical and structural homology with RNase k6 (GI 1513102; SEQ ID NO:3). In particular, HURIBO and RNase k6 share 98% identity. As illustrated by Figures 3A and 3B, HURIBO and RNase k6 have rather similar hydrophobicity plots. Northern analysis shows the expression of this sequence in various libraries, at least 55% of which are immortalized or cancerous, at least 35% of which involve immune response, and at least 15% of which involve infant/fetal tissues or organs.

The invention also encompasses HURIBO variants. A preferred HURIBO variant is one having at least 80%, and more preferably 90%, amino acid sequence identity to the HURIBO

amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1). A most preferred HURIBO variant is one having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1.

The invention also encompasses polynucleotides which encode HURIBO. Accordingly, any nucleic acid sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence of HURIBO can be used to produce recombinant molecules which express HURIBO. In a particular embodiment, the invention encompasses the polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, as shown in Figures 1A-C.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a multitude of nucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO, some bearing minimal homology to the nucleotide sequences of any known and naturally occurring gene, may be produced. Thus, the invention contemplates each and every possible variation of nucleotide sequence that could be made by selecting combinations based on possible codon choices. These combinations are made in accordance with the standard triplet genetic code as applied to the nucleotide sequence of naturally occurring HURIBO, and all such variations are to be considered as being specifically disclosed.

Although nucleotide sequences which encode HURIBO and its variants are preferably capable of hybridizing to the nucleotide sequence of the naturally occurring HURIBO under appropriately selected conditions of stringency, it may be advantageous to produce nucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO or its derivatives possessing a substantially different codon usage. Codons may be selected to increase the rate at which expression of the peptide occurs in a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic host in accordance with the frequency with which particular codons are utilized by the host. Other reasons for substantially altering the nucleotide sequence encoding HURIBO and its derivatives without altering the encoded amino acid sequences include the production of RNA transcripts having more desirable properties, such as a greater half-life, than transcripts produced from the naturally occurring sequence.

The invention also encompasses production of DNA sequences, or fragments thereof, which encode HURIBO and its derivatives, entirely by synthetic chemistry. After production, the synthetic sequence may be inserted into any of the many available expression vectors and cell systems using reagents that are well known in the art. Moreover, synthetic chemistry may be used to introduce mutations into a sequence encoding HURIBO or any fragment thereof.

Also encompassed by the invention are polynucleotide sequences that are capable of hybridizing to the claimed nucleotide sequences, and in particular, those shown in SEQ ID NO:2, under various conditions of stringency as taught in Wahl, G.M. and S.L. Berger (1987; Methods

Enzymol. 152:399-407) and Kimmel, A.R. (1987; Methods Enzymol. 152:507-511).

Methods for DNA sequencing which are well known and generally available in the art and may be used to practice any of the embodiments of the invention. The methods may employ such enzymes as the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I, Sequenase® (US Biochemical Corp.,
5 Cleveland, OH), Taq polymerase (Perkin Elmer), thermostable T7 polymerase (Amersham, Chicago, IL), or combinations of polymerases and proofreading exonucleases such as those found in the ELONGASE Amplification System marketed by Gibco/BRL (Gaithersburg, MD).

Preferably, the process is automated with machines such as the Hamilton Micro Lab 2200 (Hamilton, Reno, NV), Peltier Thermal Cycler (PTC200; MJ Research, Watertown, MA) and the
10 ABI Catalyst and 373 and 377 DNA Sequencers (Perkin Elmer).

The nucleic acid sequences encoding HURIBO may be extended utilizing a partial nucleotide sequence and employing various methods known in the art to detect upstream sequences such as promoters and regulatory elements. For example, one method which may be employed, "restriction-site" PCR, uses universal primers to retrieve unknown sequence adjacent
15 to a known locus (Sarkar, G. (1993) PCR Methods Applic. 2:318-322). In particular, genomic DNA is first amplified in the presence of primer to a linker sequence and a primer specific to the known region. The amplified sequences are then subjected to a second round of PCR with the same linker primer and another specific primer internal to the first one. Products of each round of PCR are transcribed with an appropriate RNA polymerase and sequenced using reverse
20 transcriptase.

Inverse PCR may also be used to amplify or extend sequences using divergent primers based on a known region (Triglia, T. et al. (1988) Nucleic Acids Res. 16:8186). The primers may be designed using commercially available software such as OLIGO 4.06 Primer Analysis software (National Biosciences Inc., Plymouth, MN), or another appropriate program, to be 22-30
25 nucleotides in length, to have a GC content of 50% or more, and to anneal to the target sequence at temperatures about 68°-72° C. The method uses several restriction enzymes to generate a suitable fragment in the known region of a gene. The fragment is then circularized by intramolecular ligation and used as a PCR template.

Another method which may be used is capture PCR which involves PCR amplification of
30 DNA fragments adjacent to a known sequence in human and yeast artificial chromosome DNA (Lagerstrom, M. et al. (1991) PCR Methods Applic. 1:111-119). In this method, multiple restriction enzyme digestions and ligations may also be used to place an engineered double-stranded sequence into an unknown fragment of the DNA molecule before performing

PCR.

Another method which may be used to retrieve unknown sequences is that of Parker, J.D. et al. (1991; Nucleic Acids Res. 19:3055-3060). Additionally, one may use PCR, nested primers, and PromoterFinder™ libraries to walk genomic DNA (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). This process
5 avoids the need to screen libraries and is useful in finding intron/exon junctions. When screening for full-length cDNAs, it is preferable to use libraries that have been size-selected to include larger cDNAs. Also, random-primed libraries are preferable, in that they will contain more sequences which contain the 5' regions of genes. Use of a randomly primed library may be especially preferable for situations in which an oligo d(T) library does not yield a full-length
10 cDNA. Genomic libraries may be useful for extension of sequence into 5' non-transcribed regulatory regions.

Capillary electrophoresis systems which are commercially available may be used to analyze the size or confirm the nucleotide sequence of sequencing or PCR products. In particular, capillary sequencing may employ flowable polymers for electrophoretic separation,
15 four different fluorescent dyes (one for each nucleotide) which are laser activated, and detection of the emitted wavelengths by a charge coupled device camera. Output/light intensity may be converted to electrical signal using appropriate software (e.g. Genotyper™ and Sequence Navigator™, Perkin Elmer) and the entire process from loading of samples to computer analysis and electronic data display may be computer controlled. Capillary electrophoresis is especially
20 preferable for the sequencing of small pieces of DNA which might be present in limited amounts in a particular sample.

In another embodiment of the invention, polynucleotide sequences or fragments thereof which encode HURIBO may be used in recombinant DNA molecules to direct expression of HURIBO, fragments or functional equivalents thereof, in appropriate host cells. Due to the
25 inherent degeneracy of the genetic code, other DNA sequences which encode substantially the same or a functionally equivalent amino acid sequence may be produced, and these sequences may be used to clone and express HURIBO.

As will be understood by those of skill in the art, it may be advantageous to produce HURIBO-encoding nucleotide sequences possessing non-naturally occurring codons. For
30 example, codons preferred by a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic host can be selected to increase the rate of protein expression or to produce an RNA transcript having desirable properties, such as a half-life which is longer than that of a transcript generated from the naturally occurring sequence.

The nucleotide sequences of the present invention can be engineered using methods generally known in the art in order to alter HURIBO encoding sequences for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, alterations which modify the cloning, processing, and/or expression of the gene product. DNA shuffling by random fragmentation and PCR reassembly of gene
5 fragments and synthetic oligonucleotides may be used to engineer the nucleotide sequences. For example, site-directed mutagenesis may be used to insert new restriction sites, alter glycosylation patterns, change codon preference, produce splice variants, introduce mutations, and so forth.

In another embodiment of the invention, natural, modified, or recombinant nucleic acid sequences encoding HURIBO may be ligated to a heterologous sequence to encode a fusion
10 protein. For example, to screen peptide libraries for inhibitors of HURIBO activity, it may be useful to encode a chimeric HURIBO protein that can be recognized by a commercially available antibody. A fusion protein may also be engineered to contain a cleavage site located between the HURIBO encoding sequence and the heterologous protein sequence, so that HURIBO may be cleaved and purified away from the heterologous moiety.

In another embodiment, sequences encoding HURIBO may be synthesized, in whole or in part, using chemical methods well known in the art (see Caruthers, M.H. et al. (1980) Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser. 215-223, Horn, T. et al. (1980) Nucl. Acids Res. Symp. Ser. 225-232). Alternatively, the protein itself may be produced using chemical methods to synthesize the amino acid sequence of HURIBO, or a fragment thereof. For example, peptide synthesis can be
20 performed using various solid-phase techniques (Roberge, J Y. et al. (1995) Science 269:202-204) and automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using the ABI 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer).

The newly synthesized peptide may be substantially purified by preparative high performance liquid chromatography (e.g., Creighton, T. (1983) Proteins, Structures and
25 Molecular Principles, WH Freeman and Co., New York, NY). The composition of the synthetic peptides may be confirmed by amino acid analysis or sequencing (e.g., the Edman degradation procedure; Creighton, supra). Additionally, the amino acid sequence of HURIBO, or any part thereof, may be altered during direct synthesis and/or combined using chemical methods with sequences from other proteins, or any part thereof, to produce a variant polypeptide.

In order to express a biologically active HURIBO, the nucleotide sequences encoding
30 HURIBO or functional equivalents, may be inserted into appropriate expression vector, i.e., a vector which contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted coding sequence.

Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art may be used to construct expression vectors containing sequences encoding HURIBO and appropriate transcriptional and translational control elements. These methods include in vitro recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic techniques, and in vivo genetic recombination. Such techniques are described in

5 Sambrook, J. et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Plainview, NY, and Ausubel, F.M. et al. (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY.

A variety of expression vector/host systems may be utilized to contain and express sequences encoding HURIBO. These include, but are not limited to, microorganisms such as

10 bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage, plasmid, or cosmid DNA expression vectors; yeast transformed with yeast expression vectors; insect cell systems infected with virus expression vectors (e.g., baculovirus); plant cell systems transformed with virus expression vectors (e.g., cauliflower mosaic virus, CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or with bacterial expression vectors (e.g., Ti or pBR322 plasmids); or animal cell systems.

15 The invention is not limited by the host cell employed.

The "control elements" or "regulatory sequences" are those non-translated regions of the vector--enhancers, promoters, 5' and 3' untranslated regions--which interact with host cellular proteins to carry out transcription and translation. Such elements may vary in their strength and specificity. Depending on the vector system and host utilized, any number of suitable

20 transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, may be used. For example, when cloning in bacterial systems, inducible promoters such as the hybrid lacZ promoter of the Bluescript® phagemid (Stratagene, LaJolla, CA) or pSport1™ plasmid (Gibco BRL) and the like may be used. The baculovirus polyhedrin promoter may be used in insect cells. Promoters or enhancers derived from the genomes of plant cells (e.g., heat shock,

25 RUBISCO; and storage protein genes) or from plant viruses (e.g., viral promoters or leader sequences) may be cloned into the vector. In mammalian cell systems, promoters from mammalian genes or from mammalian viruses are preferable. If it is necessary to generate a cell line that contains multiple copies of the sequence encoding HURIBO, vectors based on SV40 or EBV may be used with an appropriate selectable marker.

30 In bacterial systems, a number of expression vectors may be selected depending upon the use intended for HURIBO. For example, when large quantities of HURIBO are needed for the induction of antibodies, vectors which direct high level expression of fusion proteins that are readily purified may be used. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, the multifunctional E.

coli cloning and expression vectors such as Bluescript® (Stratagene), in which the sequence encoding HURIBO may be ligated into the vector in frame with sequences for the amino-terminal Met and the subsequent 7 residues of β -galactosidase so that a hybrid protein is produced; pIN vectors (Van Heeke, G. and S.M. Schuster (1989) J. Biol. Chem. 264:5503-5509); and the like.

5 pGEX vectors (Promega, Madison, WI) may also be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. Proteins made in such systems may be designed to include heparin, thrombin, or factor XA protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of
10 interest can be released from the GST moiety at will.

In the yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, a number of vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters such as alpha factor, alcohol oxidase, and PGH may be used. For reviews, see Ausubel et al. (supra) and Grant et al. (1987) Methods Enzymol. 153:516-544.

In cases where plant expression vectors are used, the expression of sequences encoding
15 HURIBO may be driven by any of a number of promoters. For example, viral promoters such as the 35S and 19S promoters of CaMV may be used alone or in combination with the omega leader sequence from TMV (Takamatsu, N. (1987) EMBO J. 6:307-311). Alternatively, plant promoters such as the small subunit of RUBISCO or heat shock promoters may be used (Coruzzi, G. et al. (1984) EMBO J. 3:1671-1680; Broglie, R. et al. (1984) Science 224:838-843; and
20 Winter, J. et al. (1991) Results Probl. Cell Differ. 17:85-105). These constructs can be introduced into plant cells by direct DNA transformation or pathogen-mediated transfection. Such techniques are described in a number of generally available reviews (see, for example, Hobbs, S. or Murry, L.E. in McGraw Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology (1992) McGraw Hill, New York, NY; pp. 191-196.

25 An insect system may also be used to express HURIBO. For example, in one such system, Autographa californica nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV) is used as a vector to express foreign genes in Spodoptera frugiperda cells or in Trichoplusia larvae. The sequences encoding HURIBO may be cloned into a non-essential region of the virus, such as the polyhedrin gene, and placed under control of the polyhedrin promoter. Successful insertion of HURIBO will render
30 the polyhedrin gene inactive and produce recombinant virus lacking coat protein. The recombinant viruses may then be used to infect, for example, S. frugiperda cells or Trichoplusia larvae in which HURIBO may be expressed (Engelhard, E.K. et al. (1994) Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 91:3224-3227).

In mammalian host cells, a number of viral-based expression systems may be utilized. In cases where an adenovirus is used as an expression vector, sequences encoding HURIBO may be ligated into an adenovirus transcription/translation complex consisting of the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. Insertion in a non-essential E1 or E3 region of the viral genome may be used to obtain a viable virus which is capable of expressing HURIBO in infected host cells (Logan, J. and Shenk, T. (1984) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 81:3655-3659). In addition, transcription enhancers, such as the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) enhancer, may be used to increase expression in mammalian host cells.

Human artificial chromosomes (HACs) may also be employed to deliver larger fragments of DNA than can be contained and expressed in a plasmid. HACs of 6 to 10M are constructed and delivered via conventional delivery methods (liposomes, polycationic amino polymers, or vesicles) for therapeutic purposes.

Specific initiation signals may also be used to achieve more efficient translation of sequences encoding HURIBO. Such signals include the ATG initiation codon and adjacent sequences. In cases where sequences encoding HURIBO, its initiation codon, and upstream sequences are inserted into the appropriate expression vector, no additional transcriptional or translational control signals may be needed. However, in cases where only coding sequence, or a fragment thereof, is inserted, exogenous translational control signals including the ATG initiation codon should be provided. Furthermore, the initiation codon should be in the correct reading frame to ensure translation of the entire insert. Exogenous translational elements and initiation codons may be of various origins, both natural and synthetic. The efficiency of expression may be enhanced by the inclusion of enhancers which are appropriate for the particular cell system which is used, such as those described in the literature (Scharf, D. et al. (1994) Results Probl. Cell Differ. 20:125-162).

In addition, a host cell strain may be chosen for its ability to modulate the expression of the inserted sequences or to process the expressed protein in the desired fashion. Such modifications of the polypeptide include, but are not limited to, acetylation, carboxylation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, lipidation, and acylation. Post-translational processing which cleaves a "prepro" form of the protein may also be used to facilitate correct insertion, folding and/or function. Different host cells which have specific cellular machinery and characteristic mechanisms for post-translational activities (e.g., CHO, HeLa, MDCK, HEK293, and WI38), are available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; Bethesda, MD) and may be chosen to ensure the correct modification and processing of the foreign protein.

For long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins, stable expression is preferred. For example, cell lines which stably express HURIBO may be transformed using expression vectors which may contain viral origins of replication and/or endogenous expression elements and a selectable marker gene on the same or on a separate vector. Following the
5 introduction of the vector, cells may be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched media before they are switched to selective media. The purpose of the selectable marker is to confer resistance to selection, and its presence allows growth and recovery of cells which successfully express the introduced sequences. Resistant clones of stably transformed cells may be proliferated using tissue culture techniques appropriate to the cell type.

10 Any number of selection systems may be used to recover transformed cell lines. These include, but are not limited to, the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler, M. et al. (1977) Cell 11:223-32) and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy, I. et al. (1980) Cell 22:817-23) genes which can be employed in tk⁻ or apt⁻ cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite, antibiotic or herbicide resistance can be used as the basis for selection; for example, dhfr which
15 confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler, M. et al. (1980) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 77:3567-70); npt, which confers resistance to the aminoglycosides neomycin and G-418 (Colbere-Garapin, F. et al (1981) J. Mol. Biol. 150:1-14) and als or pat, which confer resistance to chlorsulfuron and phosphinotricin acetyltransferase, respectively (Murry, supra). Additional selectable genes have been described, for example, trpB, which allows cells to utilize indole in place of tryptophan, or
20 hisD, which allows cells to utilize histinol in place of histidine (Hartman, S.C. and R.C. Mulligan (1988) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 85:8047-51). Recently, the use of visible markers has gained popularity with such markers as anthocyanins, β glucuronidase and its substrate GUS, and luciferase and its substrate luciferin, being widely used not only to identify transformants, but also to quantify the amount of transient or stable protein expression attributable to a specific
25 vector system (Rhodes, C.A. et al. (1995) Methods Mol. Biol. 55:121-131).

Although the presence/absence of marker gene expression suggests that the gene of interest is also present, its presence and expression may need to be confirmed. For example, if the sequence encoding HURIBO is inserted within a marker gene sequence, transformed cells containing sequences encoding HURIBO can be identified by the absence of marker gene
30 function. Alternatively, a marker gene can be placed in tandem with a sequence encoding HURIBO under the control of a single promoter. Expression of the marker gene in response to induction or selection usually indicates expression of the tandem gene as well.

Alternatively, host cells which contain the nucleic acid sequence encoding HURIBO and

express HURIBO may be identified by a variety of procedures known to those of skill in the art. These procedures include, but are not limited to, DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridizations and protein bioassay or immunoassay techniques which include membrane, solution, or chip based technologies for the detection and/or quantification of nucleic acid or protein.

5 The presence of polynucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO can be detected by DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization or amplification using probes or fragments or fragments of polynucleotides encoding HURIBO. Nucleic acid amplification based assays involve the use of oligonucleotides or oligomers based on the sequences encoding HURIBO to detect transformants containing DNA or RNA encoding HURIBO.

10 A variety of protocols for detecting and measuring the expression of HURIBO, using either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the protein are known in the art. Examples include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS). A two-site, monoclonal-based immunoassay utilizing monoclonal antibodies reactive to two non-interfering epitopes on HURIBO is preferred, but a competitive binding assay may be employed. These and other assays are described, among other
15 places, in Hampton, R. et al. (1990; Serological Methods, a Laboratory Manual, APS Press, St Paul, MN) and Maddox, D.E. et al. (1983; J. Exp Med 158:1211-1216).

A wide variety of labels and conjugation techniques are known by those skilled in the art and may be used in various nucleic acid and amino acid assays. Means for producing labeled
20 hybridization or PCR probes for detecting sequences related to polynucleotides encoding HURIBO include oligolabeling, nick translation, end-labeling or PCR amplification using a labeled nucleotide. Alternatively, the sequences encoding HURIBO, or any fragments thereof may be cloned into a vector for the production of an mRNA probe. Such vectors are known in the art, are commercially available, and may be used to synthesize RNA probes in vitro by
25 addition of an appropriate RNA polymerase such as T7, T3, or SP6 and labeled nucleotides. These procedures may be conducted using a variety of commercially available kits (Pharmacia & Upjohn, (Kalamazoo, MI); Promega (Madison WI); and U.S. Biochemical Corp., Cleveland, OH). Suitable reporter molecules or labels, which may be used for ease of detection, include radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescent, chemiluminescent, or chromogenic agents as well as
30 substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, magnetic particles, and the like.

Host cells transformed with nucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO may be cultured under conditions suitable for the expression and recovery of the protein from cell culture. The protein produced by a transformed cell may be secreted or contained intracellularly depending on

the sequence and/or the vector used. As will be understood by those of skill in the art, expression vectors containing polynucleotides which encode HURIBO may be designed to contain signal sequences which direct secretion of HURIBO through a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell membrane. Other constructions may be used to join sequences encoding HURIBO to nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide domain which will facilitate purification of soluble proteins. Such purification facilitating domains include, but are not limited to, metal chelating peptides such as histidine-tryptophan modules that allow purification on immobilized metals, protein A domains that allow purification on immobilized immunoglobulin, and the domain utilized in the FLAGS extension/affinity purification system (Immunex Corp., Seattle, WA). The inclusion of cleavable linker sequences such as those specific for Factor XA or enterokinase (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) between the purification domain and HURIBO may be used to facilitate purification. One such expression vector provides for expression of a fusion protein containing HURIBO and a nucleic acid encoding 6 histidine residues preceding a thioredoxin or an enterokinase cleavage site. The histidine residues facilitate purification on IMAC (immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography as described in Porath, J. et al. (1992, Prot. Exp. Purif. 3:263-281) while the enterokinase cleavage site provides a means for purifying HURIBO from the fusion protein. A discussion of vectors which contain fusion proteins is provided in Kroll, D.J. et al. (1993; DNA Cell Biol. 12:441-453).

In addition to recombinant production, fragments of HURIBO may be produced by direct peptide synthesis using solid-phase techniques Merrifield J. (1963) J. Am. Chem. Soc. 85:2149-2154). Protein synthesis may be performed using manual techniques or by automation. Automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using Applied Biosystems 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer). Various fragments of HURIBO may be chemically synthesized separately and combined using chemical methods to produce the full length molecule.

THERAPEUTICS

Chemical and structural homology exists between HURIBO and a human ribonuclease, RNase k6 (GI 1513102). Northern analysis shows that the expression of HURIBO is associated with cell proliferation, inflammation, fetal and infant development, and immune response.

Decreased expression of HURIBO appears to be associated with increased cell proliferation. Therefore, in one embodiment, HURIBO or a fragment or derivative thereof may be administered to a subject to prevent or treat a disorder associated with excessive cell proliferation. Such disorders include various types of cancer including, but not limited to, adenocarcinoma, leukemia, lymphoma, melanoma, myeloma, sarcoma, and teratocarcinoma, and

particularly, cancers of the adrenal gland, bladder, bone, bone marrow, brain, breast, cervix, gall bladder, ganglia, gastrointestinal tract, heart, kidney, liver, lung, muscle, ovary, pancreas, parathyroid, penis, prostate, salivary glands, skin, spleen, testis, thymus, thyroid, and uterus.

5 In another embodiment, an agonist of HURIBO or a derivative or fragment thereof may be used to modulate the activity of HURIBO and to prevent or treat a disorder associated with excessive cell proliferation including, but not limited to, those listed above.

In still another embodiment, a vector capable of expressing HURIBO, or a fragment or a derivative thereof, may be used to prevent or treat a disorder associated with excessive cell proliferation including, but not limited to, those listed above.

10 In another embodiment, HURIBO or a fragment or derivative thereof may be administered to a subject to prevent or treat inflammation associated with any disorder including, but are not limited to, Addison's disease, adult respiratory distress syndrome, allergies, anemia, asthma, atherosclerosis, bronchitis, cholecystitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, atopic dermatitis, dermatomyositis, diabetes mellitus, emphysema, atrophic gastritis,
15 glomerulonephritis, gout, Graves' disease, hypereosinophilia, irritable bowel syndrome, lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, myocardial or pericardial inflammation, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, pancreatitis, polymyositis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, Sjögren's syndrome, and autoimmune thyroiditis; complications of cancer, hemodialysis, extracorporeal circulation; viral, bacterial, fungal, parasitic, protozoal, and
20 helminthic infections and trauma.

In another embodiment, an agonist of HURIBO or a fragment or derivative thereof may be used to modulate the activity of HURIBO and to prevent or treat inflammation associated with any disorder including, but not limited to, those listed above.

25 In still another embodiment, a vector capable of expressing HURIBO, or a fragment or a derivative thereof, may be used to prevent or treat inflammation associated with any disorder including, but not limited to, those listed above.

Although increased expression of HURIBO results in apoptosis in normal fetal development, the same expression levels are detrimental in other subjects. Therefore, in one embodiment, an antagonist of HURIBO or a fragment or derivative thereof may be administered
30 to a subject to prevent or treat a disorder with associated apoptosis. Such disorders include, but are not limited to, AIDS and other infectious or genetic immunodeficiencies, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, retinitis pigmentosa, and cerebellar degeneration, myelodysplastic syndromes such as aplastic anemia,

ischemic injuries such as myocardial infarction, stroke, and reperfusion injury, toxin-induced diseases such as alcohol-induced liver damage, cirrhosis, and lathyrism, wasting diseases such as cachexia, viral infections such as by hepatitis B and C, and osteoporosis. In one aspect, an antibody specific for HURIBO may be used directly as an antagonist, or indirectly as a targeting or delivery mechanism for bringing a pharmaceutical agent to cells or tissue which express HURIBO.

In another embodiment, a vector expressing the antisense or complementary sequence of the polynucleotide encoding HURIBO, or a fragment or a derivative thereof, may be used to prevent or treat a disorder associated with increased apoptosis including, but not limited to, those listed above.

In a further embodiment, an antagonist or an inhibitor of HURIBO, or a fragment or a derivative thereof, may be added to cells to stimulate cell proliferation. In particular, an antagonist of HURIBO may be added to a cell or cells *in vivo* using delivery mechanisms such as liposomes, viral based vectors, or electroinjection for the purpose of promoting regeneration or differentiation of the cell or cells. In addition, an antagonist of HURIBO may be added to a cell, cell line, tissue or organ culture *in vitro* or *ex vivo* to stimulate cell proliferation for use in heterologous or autologous transplantation. In some cases, the cell will have been selected for its ability to fight an infection or a cancer or to correct a genetic defect such as sickle cell anemia, β thalassemia, cystic fibrosis, or Huntington's chorea. In one aspect, an antibody specific for HURIBO may be used directly as an antagonist, or indirectly as a targeting or delivery mechanism for bringing a pharmaceutical agent to cells or tissue which express HURIBO.

In a still further embodiment, a vector expressing the antisense or complementary sequence of the polynucleotide encoding HURIBO, or a fragment or a derivative thereof, may be used to stimulate cell proliferation, as detailed above.

In other embodiments, any of the therapeutic proteins, antagonists, antibodies, agonists, complementary sequences or vectors of the invention may be administered in combination with other appropriate therapeutic agents. Selection of the appropriate agents for use in combination therapy may be made by one of ordinary skill in the art, according to conventional pharmaceutical principles. The combination of therapeutic agents may act synergistically to effect the treatment or prevention of the various disorders described above. Using this approach, one may be able to achieve therapeutic efficacy with lower dosages of each agent, thus reducing the potential for adverse side effects.

Antagonists or inhibitors of HURIBO may be produced using methods which are generally known in the art. In particular, purified HURIBO may be used to produce antibodies or to screen libraries of pharmaceutical agents to identify those which specifically bind HURIBO.

Antibodies to HURIBO may be generated using methods that are well known in the art.

5 Such antibodies may include, but are not limited to, polyclonal, monoclonal, chimeric, single chain, Fab fragments, and fragments produced by a Fab expression library. Neutralizing antibodies, (i.e., those which inhibit dimer formation) are especially preferred for therapeutic use.

For the production of antibodies, various hosts including goats, rabbits, rats, mice, humans, and others, may be immunized by injection with HURIBO or any fragment or
10 oligopeptide thereof which has immunogenic properties. Depending on the host species, various adjuvants may be used to increase immunological response. Such adjuvants include, but are not limited to, Freund's, mineral gels such as aluminum hydroxide, and surface active substances such as lysolecithin, pluronic polyols, polyanions, peptides, oil emulsions, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, and dinitrophenol. Among adjuvants used in humans, BCG (bacilli
15 Calmette-Guerin) and Corynebacterium parvum are especially preferable.

It is preferred that the oligopeptides, peptides, or fragments used to induce antibodies to HURIBO have an amino acid sequence consisting of at least five amino acids and more preferably at least 10 amino acids. It is also preferable that they are identical to a portion of the amino acid sequence of the natural protein, and they may contain the entire amino acid sequence
20 of a small, naturally occurring molecule. Short stretches of HURIBO amino acids may be fused with those of another protein such as keyhole limpet hemocyanin and antibody produced against the chimeric molecule.

Monoclonal antibodies to HURIBO may be prepared using any technique which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. These include, but
25 are not limited to, the hybridoma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique, and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Kohler, G. et al. (1975) Nature 256:495-497; Kozbor, D. et al. (1985) J. Immunol. Methods 81:31-42; Cote, R.J. et al. (1983) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 80:2026-2030; Cole, S.P. et al. (1984) Mol. Cell Biol. 62:109-120).

In addition, techniques developed for the production of "chimeric antibodies", the splicing
30 of mouse antibody genes to human antibody genes to obtain a molecule with appropriate antigen specificity and biological activity can be used (Morrison, S.L. et al. (1984) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 81:6851-6855; Neuberger, M.S. et al. (1984) Nature 312:604-608; Takeda, S. et al. (1985) Nature 314:452-454). Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies

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may be adapted, using methods known in the art, to produce HURIBO-specific single chain antibodies. Antibodies with related specificity, but of distinct idiotypic composition, may be generated by chain shuffling from random combinatorial immunoglobulin libraries (Burton D.R. (1991) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 88:11120-3).

- 5 Antibodies may also be produced by inducing in vivo production in the lymphocyte population or by screening immunoglobulin libraries or panels of highly specific binding reagents as disclosed in the literature (Orlandi, R. et al. (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 86: 3833-3837; Winter, G. et al. (1991) Nature 349:293-299).

- 10 Antibody fragments which contain specific binding sites for HURIBO may also be generated. For example, such fragments include, but are not limited to, the F(ab')₂ fragments which can be produced by pepsin digestion of the antibody molecule and the Fab fragments which can be generated by reducing the disulfide bridges of the F(ab')₂ fragments. Alternatively, Fab expression libraries may be constructed to allow rapid and easy identification of monoclonal Fab fragments with the desired specificity (Huse, W.D. et al. (1989) Science 254:1275-1281).

- 15 Various immunoassays may be used for screening to identify antibodies having the desired specificity. Numerous protocols for competitive binding or immunoradiometric assays using either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies with established specificities are well known in the art. Such immunoassays typically involve the measurement of complex formation between HURIBO and its specific antibody. A two-site, monoclonal-based immunoassay utilizing
20 monoclonal antibodies reactive to two non-interfering HURIBO epitopes is preferred, but a competitive binding assay may also be employed (Maddox, supra).

- In another embodiment of the invention, the polynucleotides encoding HURIBO, or any fragment or complement thereof, may be used for therapeutic purposes. In one aspect, the complement of the polynucleotide encoding HURIBO may be used in situations in which it
25 would be desirable to block the transcription of the mRNA. In particular, cells may be transformed with sequences complementary to polynucleotides encoding HURIBO. Thus, complementary molecules or fragments may be used to modulate HURIBO activity, or to achieve regulation of gene function. Such technology is now well known in the art, and sense or antisense oligonucleotides or larger fragments, can be designed from various locations along the
30 coding or control regions of sequences encoding HURIBO.

 Expression vectors derived from retro viruses, adenovirus, herpes or vaccinia viruses, or from various bacterial plasmids may be used for delivery of nucleotide sequences to the targeted organ, tissue or cell population. Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be

used to construct vectors which will express nucleic acid sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotides of the gene encoding HURIBO. These techniques are described both in Sambrook et al. (supra) and in Ausubel et al. (supra).

Genes encoding HURIBO can be turned off by transforming a cell or tissue with
5 expression vectors which express high levels of a polynucleotide or fragment thereof which encodes HURIBO. Such constructs may be used to introduce untranslatable sense or antisense sequences into a cell. Even in the absence of integration into the DNA, such vectors may continue to transcribe RNA molecules until they are disabled by endogenous nucleases. Transient expression may last for a month or more with a non-replicating vector and even longer
10 if appropriate replication elements are part of the vector system.

As mentioned above, modifications of gene expression can be obtained by designing complementary sequences or antisense molecules (DNA, RNA, or PNA) to the control, 5' or regulatory regions of the gene encoding HURIBO (signal sequence, promoters, enhancers, and introns). Oligonucleotides derived from the transcription initiation site, e.g., between positions
15 -10 and +10 from the start site, are preferred. Similarly, inhibition can be achieved using "triple helix" base-pairing methodology. Triple helix pairing is useful because it causes inhibition of the ability of the double helix to open sufficiently for the binding of polymerases, transcription factors, or regulatory molecules. Recent therapeutic advances using triplex DNA have been described in the literature (Gee, J.E. et al. (1994) In: Huber, B.E. and B.I. Carr, Molecular and
20 Immunologic Approaches, Futura Publishing Co., Mt. Kisco, NY). The complementary sequence or antisense molecule may also be designed to block translation of mRNA by preventing the transcript from binding to ribosomes.

Ribozymes, enzymatic RNA molecules, may also be used to catalyze the specific cleavage of RNA. The mechanism of ribozyme action involves sequence-specific hybridization of the
25 ribozyme molecule to complementary target RNA, followed by endonucleolytic cleavage. Examples which may be used include engineered hammerhead motif ribozyme molecules that can specifically and efficiently catalyze endonucleolytic cleavage of sequences encoding HURIBO.

Specific ribozyme cleavage sites within any potential RNA target are initially identified
30 by scanning the target molecule for ribozyme cleavage sites which include the following sequences: GUA, GUU, and GUC. Once identified, short RNA sequences of between 15 and 20 ribonucleotides corresponding to the region of the target gene containing the cleavage site may be evaluated for secondary structural features which may render the oligonucleotide inoperable. The

suitability of candidate targets may also be evaluated by testing accessibility to hybridization with complementary oligonucleotides using ribonuclease protection assays.

Complementary ribonucleic acid molecules and ribozymes of the invention may be prepared by any method known in the art for the synthesis of nucleic acid molecules. These include techniques for chemically synthesizing oligonucleotides such as solid phase phosphoramidite chemical synthesis. Alternatively, RNA molecules may be generated by in vitro and in vivo transcription of DNA sequences encoding HURIBO. Such DNA sequences may be incorporated into a wide variety of vectors with suitable RNA polymerase promoters such as T7 or SP6. Alternatively, these cDNA constructs that synthesize complementary RNA constitutively or inducibly can be introduced into cell lines, cells, or tissues.

RNA molecules may be modified to increase intracellular stability and half-life. Possible modifications include, but are not limited to, the addition of flanking sequences at the 5' and/or 3' ends of the molecule or the use of phosphorothioate or 2' O-methyl rather than phosphodiesterase linkages within the backbone of the molecule. This concept is inherent in the production of PNAs and can be extended in all of these molecules by the inclusion of nontraditional bases such as inosine, queosine, and wybutosine, as well as acetyl-, methyl-, thio-, and similarly modified forms of adenine, cytidine, guanine, thymine, and uridine which are not as easily recognized by endogenous endonucleases.

Many methods for introducing vectors into cells or tissues are available and equally suitable for use in vivo, in vitro, and ex vivo. For ex vivo therapy, vectors may be introduced into stem cells taken from the patient and clonally propagated for autologous transplant back into that same patient. Delivery by transfection, by liposome injections or polycationic amino polymers (Goldman, C.K. et al. (1997) Nature Biotechnology 15:462-66; incorporated herein by reference) may be achieved using methods which are well known in the art.

Any of the therapeutic methods described above may be applied to any subject in need of such therapy, including, for example, mammals such as dogs, cats, cows, horses, rabbits, monkeys, and most preferably, humans.

An additional embodiment of the invention relates to the administration of a pharmaceutical composition, in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for any of the therapeutic effects discussed above. Such pharmaceutical compositions may consist of HURIBO, antibodies to HURIBO, mimetics, agonists, antagonists, or inhibitors of HURIBO. The compositions may be administered alone or in combination with at least one other agent, such as stabilizing compound, which may be administered in any sterile, biocompatible

pharmaceutical carrier, including, but not limited to, saline, buffered saline, dextrose, and water. The compositions may be administered to a patient alone, or in combination with other agents, drugs or hormones.

The pharmaceutical compositions utilized in this invention may be administered by any number of routes including, but not limited to, oral, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-arterial, intramedullary, intrathecal, intraventricular, transdermal, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, intranasal, enteral, topical, sublingual, or rectal means.

In addition to the active ingredients, these pharmaceutical compositions may contain suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers comprising excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the active compounds into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically. Further details on techniques for formulation and administration may be found in the latest edition of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Maack Publishing Co., Easton, PA).

Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration can be formulated using pharmaceutically acceptable carriers well known in the art in dosages suitable for oral administration. Such carriers enable the pharmaceutical compositions to be formulated as tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries, suspensions, and the like, for ingestion by the patient.

Pharmaceutical preparations for oral use can be obtained through combination of active compounds with solid excipient, optionally grinding a resulting mixture, and processing the mixture of granules, after adding suitable auxiliaries, if desired, to obtain tablets or dragee cores. Suitable excipients are carbohydrate or protein fillers, such as sugars, including lactose, sucrose, mannitol, or sorbitol; starch from corn, wheat, rice, potato, or other plants; cellulose, such as methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, or sodium carboxymethylcellulose; gums including arabic and tragacanth; and proteins such as gelatin and collagen. If desired, disintegrating or solubilizing agents may be added, such as the cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, alginic acid, or a salt thereof, such as sodium alginate.

Dragee cores may be used in conjunction with suitable coatings, such as concentrated sugar solutions, which may also contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinylpyrrolidone, carbopol gel, polyethylene glycol, and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions, and suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures. Dyestuffs or pigments may be added to the tablets or dragee coatings for product identification or to characterize the quantity of active compound, i.e., dosage.

Pharmaceutical preparations which can be used orally include push-fit capsules made of

gelatin, as well as soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a coating, such as glycerol or sorbitol. Push-fit capsules can contain active ingredients mixed with a filler or binders, such as lactose or starches, lubricants, such as talc or magnesium stearate, and, optionally, stabilizers. In soft capsules, the active compounds may be dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, liquid, or liquid polyethylene glycol with or without stabilizers.

Pharmaceutical formulations suitable for parenteral administration may be formulated in aqueous solutions, preferably in physiologically compatible buffers such as Hanks's solution, Ringer's solution, or physiologically buffered saline. Aqueous injection suspensions may contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension, such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, or dextran. Additionally, suspensions of the active compounds may be prepared as appropriate oily injection suspensions. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils such as sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, such as ethyl oleate or triglycerides, or liposomes. Non-lipid polycationic amino polymers may also be used for delivery. Optionally, the suspension may also contain suitable stabilizers or agents which increase the solubility of the compounds to allow for the preparation of highly concentrated solutions.

For topical or nasal administration, penetrants appropriate to the particular barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be manufactured in a manner that is known in the art, e.g., by means of conventional mixing, dissolving, granulating, dragee-making, levigating, emulsifying, encapsulating, entrapping, or lyophilizing processes.

The pharmaceutical composition may be provided as a salt and can be formed with many acids, including but not limited to, hydrochloric, sulfuric, acetic, lactic, tartaric, malic, succinic, etc. Salts tend to be more soluble in aqueous or other protonic solvents than are the corresponding free base forms. In other cases, the preferred preparation may be a lyophilized powder which may contain any or all of the following: 1-50 mM histidine, 0.1%-2% sucrose, and 2-7% mannitol, at a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5, that is combined with buffer prior to use.

After pharmaceutical compositions have been prepared, they can be placed in an appropriate container and labeled for treatment of an indicated condition. For administration of HURIBO, such labeling would include amount, frequency, and method of administration.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for use in the invention include compositions wherein the active ingredients are contained in an effective amount to achieve the intended purpose. The determination of an effective dose is well within the capability of those skilled in the art.

For any compound, the therapeutically effective dose can be estimated initially either in cell culture assays, e.g., of neoplastic cells, or in animal models, usually mice, rabbits, dogs, or pigs. The animal model may also be used to determine the appropriate concentration range and route of administration. Such information can then be used to determine useful doses and routes for administration in humans.

A therapeutically effective dose refers to that amount of active ingredient, for example HURIBO or fragments thereof, antibodies of HURIBO, agonists, antagonists or inhibitors of HURIBO, which ameliorates the symptoms or condition. Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity may be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., ED50 (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population) and LD50 (the dose lethal to 50% of the population). The dose ratio between therapeutic and toxic effects is the therapeutic index, and it can be expressed as the ratio, LD50/ED50. Pharmaceutical compositions which exhibit large therapeutic indices are preferred. The data obtained from cell culture assays and animal studies is used in formulating a range of dosage for human use. The dosage contained in such compositions is preferably within a range of circulating concentrations that include the ED50 with little or no toxicity. The dosage varies within this range depending upon the dosage form employed, sensitivity of the patient, and the route of administration.

The exact dosage will be determined by the practitioner, in light of factors related to the subject that requires treatment. Dosage and administration are adjusted to provide sufficient levels of the active moiety or to maintain the desired effect. Factors which may be taken into account include the severity of the disease state, general health of the subject, age, weight, and gender of the subject, diet, time and frequency of administration, drug combination(s), reaction sensitivities, and tolerance/response to therapy. Long-acting pharmaceutical compositions may be administered every 3 to 4 days, every week, or once every two weeks depending on half-life and clearance rate of the particular formulation.

Normal dosage amounts may vary from 0.1 to 100,000 micrograms, up to a total dose of about 1 g, depending upon the route of administration. Guidance as to particular dosages and methods of delivery is provided in the literature and generally available to practitioners in the art. Those skilled in the art will employ different formulations for nucleotides than for proteins or their inhibitors. Similarly, delivery of polynucleotides or polypeptides will be specific to particular cells, conditions, locations, etc.

DIAGNOSTICS

In another embodiment, antibodies which specifically bind HURIBO may be used for the diagnosis of conditions or diseases characterized by expression of HURIBO, or in assays to monitor patients being treated with HURIBO, agonists, antagonists or inhibitors. The antibodies useful for diagnostic purposes may be prepared in the same manner as those described above for therapeutics. Diagnostic assays for HURIBO include methods which utilize the antibody and a label to detect HURIBO in human body fluids or extracts of cells or tissues. The antibodies may be used with or without modification, and may be labeled by joining them, either covalently or non-covalently, with a reporter molecule. A wide variety of reporter molecules which are known in the art may be used, several of which are described above.

A variety of protocols including ELISA, RIA, and FACS for measuring HURIBO are known in the art and provide a basis for diagnosing altered or abnormal levels of HURIBO expression. Normal or standard values for HURIBO expression are established by combining body fluids or cell extracts taken from normal mammalian subjects, preferably human, with antibody to HURIBO under conditions suitable for complex formation. The amount of standard complex formation may be quantified by various methods, but preferably by photometric means. Quantities of HURIBO expressed in subject, control and disease, samples from biopsied tissues are compared with the standard values. Deviation between standard and subject values establishes the parameters for diagnosing disease.

In another embodiment of the invention, the polynucleotides encoding HURIBO may be used for diagnostic purposes. The polynucleotides which may be used include oligonucleotide sequences, complementary RNA and DNA molecules, and PNAs. The polynucleotides may be used to detect and quantitate gene expression in biopsied tissues in which expression of HURIBO may be correlated with disease. The diagnostic assay may be used to distinguish between absence, presence, and excess expression of HURIBO, and to monitor regulation of HURIBO levels during therapeutic intervention.

In one aspect, hybridization with PCR probes which are capable of detecting polynucleotide sequences, including genomic sequences, encoding HURIBO or closely related molecules, may be used to identify nucleic acid sequences which encode HURIBO. The specificity of the probe, whether it is made from a highly specific region, e.g., 10 unique nucleotides in the 5' regulatory region, or a less specific region, e.g., especially in the 3' coding region, and the stringency of the hybridization or amplification (maximal, high, intermediate, or low) will determine whether the probe identifies only naturally occurring sequences encoding HURIBO, alleles, or related sequences.

Probes may also be used for the detection of related sequences, and should preferably contain at least 50% of the nucleotides from any of the HURIBO encoding sequences. The hybridization probes of the subject invention may be DNA or RNA and derived from the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or from genomic sequence including promoter, enhancer elements, and introns of the naturally occurring HURIBO.

Means for producing specific hybridization probes for DNAs encoding HURIBO include the cloning of nucleic acid sequences encoding HURIBO or HURIBO derivatives into vectors for the production of mRNA probes. Such vectors are known in the art, commercially available, and may be used to synthesize RNA probes *in vitro* by means of the addition of the appropriate RNA polymerases and the appropriate labeled nucleotides. Hybridization probes may be labeled by a variety of reporter groups, for example, radionuclides such as ³²P or ³⁵S, or enzymatic labels, such as alkaline phosphatase coupled to the probe via avidin/biotin coupling systems, and the like.

Polynucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO may be used for the diagnosis of conditions, disorders, or diseases which are associated with expression of HURIBO. Examples of such disorders include: various types of cancer such as adenocarcinoma, leukemia, lymphoma, melanoma, myeloma, sarcoma, and teratocarcinoma, and particularly, cancers of the adrenal gland, bladder, bone, bone marrow, brain, breast, cervix, gall bladder, ganglia, gastrointestinal tract, heart, kidney, liver, lung, muscle, ovary, pancreas, parathyroid, penis, prostate, salivary glands, skin, spleen, testis, thymus, thyroid, and uterus. disorders associated with inflammation such as Addison's disease, adult respiratory distress syndrome, allergies, anemia, asthma, atherosclerosis, bronchitis, cholecystitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, atopic dermatitis, dermatomyositis, diabetes mellitus, emphysema, atrophic gastritis, glomerulonephritis, gout, Graves' disease, hypereosinophilia, irritable bowel syndrome, lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, myocardial or pericardial inflammation, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, pancreatitis, polymyositis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, Sjögren's syndrome, and autoimmune thyroiditis; complications of cancer, hemodialysis, extracorporeal circulation; viral, bacterial, fungal, parasitic, protozoal, and helminthic infections and trauma; and disorders associated apoptosis such as AIDS and other infectious or genetic immunodeficiencies, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, retinitis pigmentosa, and cerebellar degeneration, myelodysplastic syndromes such as aplastic anemia, ischemic injuries such as myocardial infarction, stroke, and reperfusion injury, toxin-induced diseases such as alcohol-induced liver damage, cirrhosis, and lathyrism, wasting

diseases such as cachexia, viral infections such as by hepatitis B and C, and osteoporosis. The polynucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO may be used in Southern or northern analysis, dot blot, or other membrane-based technologies; in PCR technologies; or in dipstick, pin, ELISA assays or microarrays utilizing fluids or tissues from patient biopsies to detect altered HURIBO expression. Such qualitative or quantitative methods are well known in the art.

In a particular aspect, the nucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO may be useful in assays that detect activation or induction of various cancers, particularly those mentioned above. The nucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO may be labeled by standard methods, and added to a fluid or tissue sample from a patient under conditions suitable for the formation of hybridization complexes. After a suitable incubation period, the sample is washed and the signal is quantitated and compared with a standard value. If the amount of signal in the biopsied or extracted sample is significantly altered from that of a comparable control sample, the nucleotide sequences have hybridized with nucleotide sequences in the sample, and the presence of altered levels of nucleotide sequences encoding HURIBO in the sample indicates the presence of the associated disease. Such assays may also be used to evaluate the efficacy of a particular therapeutic treatment regimen in animal studies, in clinical trials, or in monitoring the treatment of an individual patient.

In order to provide a basis for the diagnosis of disease associated with expression of HURIBO, a normal or standard profile for expression is established. This may be accomplished by combining body fluids or cell extracts taken from normal subjects, either animal or human, with a sequence, or a fragment thereof, which encodes HURIBO, under conditions suitable for hybridization or amplification. Standard hybridization may be quantified by comparing the values obtained from normal subjects with those from an experiment where a known amount of a substantially purified polynucleotide is used. Standard values obtained from normal samples may be compared with values obtained from samples from patients who are symptomatic for disease. Deviation between standard and subject values is used to establish the presence of disease.

Once disease is established and a treatment protocol is initiated, hybridization assays may be repeated on a regular basis to evaluate whether the level of expression in the patient begins to approximate that which is observed in the normal patient. The results obtained from successive assays may be used to show the efficacy of treatment over a period ranging from several days to months.

With respect to cancer, the presence of a relatively high amount of transcript in biopsied tissue from an individual may indicate a predisposition for the development of the disease, or

may provide a means for detecting the disease prior to the appearance of actual clinical symptoms. A more definitive diagnosis of this type may allow health professionals to employ preventative measures or aggressive treatment earlier thereby preventing the development or further progression of the cancer.

5 Additional diagnostic uses for oligonucleotides designed from the sequences encoding HURIBO may involve the use of PCR. Such oligomers may be chemically synthesized, generated enzymatically, or produced in vitro. Oligomers will preferably consist of two nucleotide sequences, one with sense orientation (5'→3') and another with antisense (3'←5'), employed under optimized conditions for identification of a specific gene or condition. The same
10 two oligomers, nested sets of oligomers, or even a degenerate pool of oligomers may be employed under less stringent conditions for detection and/or quantitation of closely related DNA or RNA sequences.

Methods which may also be used to quantitate the expression of HURIBO include radiolabeling or biotinylating nucleotides, coamplification of a control nucleic acid, and standard
15 curves onto which the experimental results are interpolated (Melby, P.C. et al. (1993) J. Immunol. Methods, 159:235-244; Duplaa, C. et al. (1993) Anal. Biochem. 229-236). The speed of quantitation of multiple samples may be accelerated by running the assay in an ELISA format where the oligomer of interest is presented in various dilutions and a spectrophotometric or colorimetric response gives rapid quantitation.

20 In further embodiments, oligonucleotides derived from any of the polynucleotide sequences described herein may be used as probes in microarrays. The microarrays can be used to monitor the expression level of large numbers of genes simultaneously (to produce a transcript image), and to identify genetic variants, mutations and polymorphisms. This information will be useful in determining gene function, understanding the genetic basis of disease, diagnosing
25 disease, and in developing and monitoring the activity of therapeutic agents.

In one embodiment, the microarray is prepared and used according to the methods described in PCT application WO95/11995 (Chee et al.), Lockhart, D. J. et al. (1996; Nat. Biotech. 14: 1675-1680) and Schena, M. et al. (1996; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 93: 10614-10619), all of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

30 The microarray is preferably composed of a large number of unique, single-stranded nucleic acid sequences, usually either synthetic antisense oligonucleotides or fragments of cDNAs fixed to a solid support. Microarrays may contain oligonucleotides which cover the known 5', or 3', sequence, or contain sequential oligonucleotides which cover the full length

sequence; or unique oligonucleotides selected from particular areas along the length of the sequence. Polynucleotides used in the microarray may be oligonucleotides that are specific to a gene or genes of interest in which at least a fragment of the sequence is known or that are specific to one or more unidentified cDNAs which are common to a particular cell type, developmental or disease state.

In order to produce oligonucleotides to a known sequence for a microarray, the gene of interest is examined using a computer algorithm which starts at the 5' or more preferably at the 3' end of the nucleotide sequence. The algorithm identifies oligomers of defined length that are unique to the gene, have a GC content within a range suitable for hybridization, and lack predicted secondary structure that may interfere with hybridization. The oligomers are synthesized at designated areas on a substrate using a light-directed chemical process. The substrate may be paper, nylon or other type of membrane, filter, chip, glass slide or any other suitable solid support.

In another aspect, the oligomers may be synthesized on the surface of the substrate by using a chemical coupling procedure and an ink jet application apparatus, as described in PCT application WO95/251116 (Baldeschweiler et al.) which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference. In another aspect, a "gridded" array analogous to a dot (or slot) blot may be used to arrange and link cDNA fragments or oligonucleotides to the surface of a substrate using a vacuum system, thermal, UV, mechanical or chemical bonding procedures. An array may be produced by hand or using available devices (slot blot or dot blot apparatus) materials and machines (including robotic instruments) and contain grids of 8 dots, 24 dots, 96 dots, 384 dots, 1536 dots or 6144 dots, or any other multiple which lends itself to the efficient use of commercially available instrumentation.

In order to conduct sample analysis using the microarrays, the RNA or DNA from a biological sample is made into hybridization probes. The mRNA is isolated, and cDNA is produced and used as a template to make antisense RNA (aRNA). The aRNA is amplified in the presence of fluorescent nucleotides, and labeled probes are incubated with the microarray so that the probe sequences hybridize to complementary oligonucleotides of the microarray. Incubation conditions are adjusted so that hybridization occurs with precise complementary matches or with various degrees of less complementarity. After removal of nonhybridized probes, a scanner is used to determine the levels and patterns of fluorescence. The scanned images are examined to determine degree of complementarity and the relative abundance of each oligonucleotide sequence on the microarray. The biological samples may be obtained from any bodily fluids

(such as blood, urine, saliva, phlegm, gastric juices, etc.), cultured cells, biopsies, or other tissue preparations. A detection system may be used to measure the absence, presence, and amount of hybridization for all of the distinct sequences simultaneously. This data may be used for large scale correlation studies on the sequences, mutations, variants, or polymorphisms among samples.

In another embodiment of the invention, the nucleic acid sequences which encode HURIBO may also be used to generate hybridization probes which are useful for mapping the naturally occurring genomic sequence. The sequences may be mapped to a particular chromosome, to a specific region of a chromosome or to artificial chromosome constructions, such as human artificial chromosomes (HACs), yeast artificial chromosomes (YACs), bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs), bacterial P1 constructions or single chromosome cDNA libraries as reviewed in Price, C.M. (1993) *Blood Rev.* 7:127-134, and Trask, B.J. (1991) *Trends Genet.* 7:149-154.

Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH as described in Verma et al. (1988) Human Chromosomes: A Manual of Basic Techniques, Pergamon Press, New York, NY) may be correlated with other physical chromosome mapping techniques and genetic map data. Examples of genetic map data can be found in various scientific journals or at Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM). Correlation between the location of the gene encoding HURIBO on a physical chromosomal map and a specific disease, or predisposition to a specific disease, may help delimit the region of DNA associated with that genetic disease. The nucleotide sequences of the subject invention may be used to detect differences in gene sequences between normal, carrier, or affected individuals.

In situ hybridization of chromosomal preparations and physical mapping techniques such as linkage analysis using established chromosomal markers may be used for extending genetic maps. Often the placement of a gene on the chromosome of another mammalian species, such as mouse, may reveal associated markers even if the number or arm of a particular human chromosome is not known. New sequences can be assigned to chromosomal arms, or parts thereof, by physical mapping. This provides valuable information to investigators searching for disease genes using positional cloning or other gene discovery techniques. Once the disease or syndrome has been crudely localized by genetic linkage to a particular genomic region, for example, AT to 11q22-23 (Gatti, R.A. et al. (1988) *Nature* 336:577-580), any sequences mapping to that area may represent associated or regulatory genes for further investigation. The nucleotide sequence of the subject invention may also be used to detect differences in the chromosomal

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location due to translocation, inversion, etc. among normal, carrier, or affected individuals.

In another embodiment of the invention, HURIBO, its catalytic or immunogenic fragments or oligopeptides thereof, can be used for screening libraries of compounds in any of a variety of drug screening techniques. The fragment employed in such screening may be free in solution, affixed to a solid support, borne on a cell surface, or located intracellularly. The formation of binding complexes, between HURIBO and the agent being tested, may be measured.

Another technique for drug screening which may be used provides for high throughput screening of compounds having suitable binding affinity to the protein of interest as described in published PCT application WO84/03564. In this method, as applied to HURIBO large numbers of different small test compounds are synthesized on a solid substrate, such as plastic pins or some other surface. The test compounds are reacted with HURIBO, or fragments thereof, and washed. Bound HURIBO is then detected by methods well known in the art. Purified HURIBO can also be coated directly onto plates for use in the aforementioned drug screening techniques. Alternatively, non-neutralizing antibodies can be used to capture the peptide and immobilize it on a solid support.

In another embodiment, one may use competitive drug screening assays in which neutralizing antibodies capable of binding HURIBO specifically compete with a test compound for binding HURIBO. In this manner, the antibodies can be used to detect the presence of any peptide which shares one or more antigenic determinants with HURIBO.

In additional embodiments, the nucleotide sequences which encode HURIBO may be used in any molecular biology techniques that have yet to be developed, provided the new techniques rely on properties of nucleotide sequences that are currently known, including, but not limited to, such properties as the triplet genetic code and specific base pair interactions.

The examples below are provided to illustrate the subject invention and are not included for the purpose of limiting the invention.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

I SININOT01 cDNA Library Construction

The SININOT01 cDNA library was constructed from microscopically normal ileum tissue of a 4-year-old Caucasian female (specimen RU96-03-0108; International Institute for the Advancement of Medicine, Exton, PA) who died from a closed head injury.

The frozen tissue was homogenized and lysed using a Brinkmann Homogenizer Polytron PT-3000 (Brinkmann Instruments, Westbury, NJ) in guanidinium isothiocyanate solution. The lysate was centrifuged over a 5.7 M CsCl cushion using an Beckman SW28 rotor in a Beckman

L8-70M Ultracentrifuge (Beckman Instruments) for 18 hours at 25,000 rpm at ambient temperature. The RNA was extracted with acid phenol pH 4.7, precipitated using 0.3 M sodium acetate and 2.5 volumes of ethanol, resuspended in RNase-free water, and DNase treated at 37°C. The RNA extraction was repeated and RNA precipitated as before. The mRNA was then isolated using the Qiagen Oligotex kit (QIAGEN, Chatsworth, CA) and used to construct the cDNA library.

The mRNA was handled according to the recommended protocols in the SuperScript Plasmid System for cDNA Synthesis and Plasmid Cloning (Cat. #18248-013, Gibco/BRL, Gaithersburg, MD). cDNAs were fractionated on a Sepharose CL4B column (Cat. #275105-01, Pharmacia), and those cDNAs exceeding 400 bp were ligated into pINCY 1. The plasmid pINCY 1 was subsequently transformed into DH5aTM competent cells (Cat. #18258-012, Gibco/BRL).

II Isolation and Sequencing of cDNA Clones

Plasmid DNA was released from the cells and purified using the REAL Prep 96 Plasmid Kit for Rapid Extraction Alkaline Lysis Plasmid Minipreps (Catalog #26173, QIAGEN). This kit enabled the simultaneous purification of 96 samples in a 96-well block using multi-channel reagent dispensers. The recommended protocol was employed except for the following changes: 1) the bacteria were cultured in 1 ml of sterile Terrific Broth (Catalog #22711, GIBCO/BRL) with carbenicillin at 25 mg/L and glycerol at 0.4%; 2) after inoculation, the cultures were incubated for 19 hours and at the end of incubation, the cells were lysed with 0.3 ml of lysis buffer; and 3) following isopropanol precipitation, the plasmid DNA pellet was resuspended in 0.1 ml of distilled water. After the last step in the protocol, samples were transferred to a 96-well block for storage at 4° C.

The cDNAs were sequenced by the method of Sanger et al. (1975, J. Mol. Biol. 94:441f), using a Hamilton Micro Lab 2200 (Hamilton, Reno, NV) in combination with Peltier Thermal Cyclers PTC200 (MJ Research, Watertown, MA) and Applied Biosystems 377 DNA Sequencing Systems; and the reading frame was determined.

III Homology Searching of cDNA Clones and Their Deduced Proteins

The nucleotide sequences of the Sequence Listing as well as the amino acid sequences deduced from them were used as query sequences against databases such as GenBank, SwissProt, BLOCKS, and Pima II. These databases, which contain previously identified and annotated sequences, were searched for regions of homology (similarity) using BLAST, which stands for Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (Altschul (1993) supra, Altschul (1990) supra).

BLAST produced alignments of both nucleotide and amino acid sequences to determine sequence similarity. Because of the local nature of the alignments, BLAST was especially useful in determining exact matches or in identifying homologs which may be of prokaryotic (bacterial) or eukaryotic (animal, fungal, or plant) origin. Other algorithms such as the one described in Smith et al. (1992, Protein Engineering 5:35-51), incorporated herein by reference, could have been used when dealing with primary sequence patterns and secondary structure gap penalties. The sequences disclosed in this application have lengths of at least 49 nucleotides, and no more than 12% uncalled bases (where N is recorded rather than A, C, G, or T).

The BLAST approach, as detailed in Karlin et al. (supra) and incorporated herein by reference, searched for matches between a query sequence and a database sequence. BLAST evaluated the statistical significance of any matches found, and reported only those matches that satisfy the user-selected threshold of significance. In this application, threshold was set at 10^{-25} for nucleotides and 10^{-14} for peptides.

Incyte nucleotide sequences were searched against the GenBank databases for primate (pri), rodent (rod), and other mammalian sequences (mam); and deduced amino acid sequences from the same clones were then searched against GenBank functional protein databases, mammalian (mamp), vertebrate (vrtp), and eukaryote (eukp) for homology. The relevant database for a particular match were reported as Glxxx±p (where xxx is pri, rod, etc., and if present, p = peptide).

IV Northern Analysis

Northern analysis is a laboratory technique used to detect the presence of a transcript of a gene and involves the hybridization of a labeled nucleotide sequence to a membrane on which RNAs from a particular cell type or tissue have been bound (Sambrook et al., supra).

Analogous computer techniques using BLAST (Altschul, S.F. 1993 and 1990, supra) are used to search for identical or related molecules in nucleotide databases such as GenBank or the LIFESEQ™ database (Incyte Pharmaceuticals). This analysis is much faster than multiple, membrane-based hybridizations. In addition, the sensitivity of the computer search can be modified to determine whether any particular match is categorized as exact or homologous.

The basis of the search is the product score which is defined as:

$$\frac{\% \text{ sequence identity} \times \% \text{ maximum BLAST score}}{100}$$

The product score takes into account both the degree of similarity between two sequences and the length of the sequence match. For example, with a product score of 40, the match will be exact

within a 1-2% error; and at 70, the match will be exact. Homologous molecules are usually identified by selecting those which show product scores between 15 and 40, although lower scores may identify related molecules.

The results of northern analysis are reported as a list of libraries in which the transcript encoding HURIBO occurs. Abundance and percent abundance are also reported. Abundance directly reflects the number of times a particular transcript is represented in a cDNA library, and percent abundance is abundance divided by the total number of sequences examined in the cDNA library.

V Extension of HURIBO Encoding Polynucleotides

The nucleic acid sequence of the Incyte Clone 2181484 was used to design oligonucleotide primers for extending a partial nucleotide sequence to full length. One primer was synthesized to initiate extension in the antisense direction, and the other was synthesized to extend sequence in the sense direction. Primers were used to facilitate the extension of the known sequence "outward" generating amplicons containing new, unknown nucleotide sequence for the region of interest. The initial primers were designed from the cDNA using OLIGO 4.06 (National Biosciences), or another appropriate program, to be about 22 to about 30 nucleotides in length, to have a GC content of 50% or more, and to anneal to the target sequence at temperatures of about 68° to about 72° C. Any stretch of nucleotides which would result in hairpin structures and primer-primer dimerizations was avoided.

Selected human cDNA libraries (Gibco/BRL) were used to extend the sequence. If more than one extension is necessary or desired, additional sets of primers are designed to further extend the known region.

High fidelity amplification was obtained by following the instructions for the XL-PCR kit (Perkin Elmer) and thoroughly mixing the enzyme and reaction mix. Beginning with 40 pmol of each primer and the recommended concentrations of all other components of the kit, PCR was performed using the Peltier Thermal Cycler (PTC200; M.J. Research, Watertown, MA) and the following parameters:

Step 1	94° C for 1 min (initial denaturation)
Step 2	65° C for 1 min
Step 3	68° C for 6 min
Step 4	94° C for 15 sec
Step 5	65° C for 1 min
Step 6	68° C for 7 min
Step 7	Repeat step 4-6 for 15 additional cycles
Step 8	94° C for 15 sec

- Step 9 65° C for 1 min
Step 10 68° C for 7:15 min
Step 11 Repeat step 8-10 for 12 cycles
Step 12 72° C for 8 min
5 Step 13 4° C (and holding)

A 5-10 μ l aliquot of the reaction mixture was analyzed by electrophoresis on a low concentration (about 0.6-0.8%) agarose mini-gel to determine which reactions were successful in extending the sequence. Bands thought to contain the largest products were excised from the gel, 10 purified using QIAQuick™ (QIAGEN Inc., Chatsworth, CA), and trimmed of overhangs using Klenow enzyme to facilitate religation and cloning.

After ethanol precipitation, the products were redissolved in 13 μ l of ligation buffer, 1 μ l T4-DNA ligase (15 units) and 1 μ l T4 polynucleotide kinase were added, and the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 2-3 hours or overnight at 16° C. Competent E. coli cells (in 15 40 μ l of appropriate media) were transformed with 3 μ l of ligation mixture and cultured in 80 μ l of SOC medium (Sambrook et al., supra). After incubation for one hour at 37° C, the E. coli mixture was plated on Luria Bertani (LB)-agar (Sambrook et al., supra) containing 2x Carb. The following day, several colonies were randomly picked from each plate and cultured in 150 μ l of liquid LB/2x Carb medium placed in an individual well of an appropriate, commercially- 20 available, sterile 96-well microtiter plate. The following day, 5 μ l of each overnight culture was transferred into a non-sterile 96-well plate and after dilution 1:10 with water, 5 μ l of each sample was transferred into a PCR array.

For PCR amplification, 18 μ l of concentrated PCR reaction mix (3.3x) containing 4 units of rTth DNA polymerase, a vector primer, and one or both of the gene specific primers used for 25 the extension reaction were added to each well. Amplification was performed using the following conditions:

- Step 1 94° C for 60 sec
Step 2 94° C for 20 sec
Step 3 55° C for 30 sec
30 Step 4 72° C for 90 sec
Step 5 Repeat steps 2-4 for an additional 29 cycles
Step 6 72° C for 180 sec
Step 7 4° C (and holding)

35 Aliquots of the PCR reactions were run on agarose gels together with molecular weight markers. The sizes of the PCR products were compared to the original partial cDNAs, and appropriate clones were selected, ligated into plasmid, and sequenced.

In like manner, the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is used to obtain 5' regulatory sequences using the procedure above, oligonucleotides designed for 5' extension, and an appropriate genomic library.

VI Labeling and Use of Individual Hybridization Probes

5 Hybridization probes derived from SEQ ID NO:2 are employed to screen cDNAs, genomic DNAs, or mRNAs. Although the labeling of oligonucleotides, consisting of about 20 base-pairs, is specifically described, essentially the same procedure is used with larger nucleotide fragments. Oligonucleotides are designed using state-of-the-art software such as OLIGO 4.06 (National Biosciences), labeled by combining 50 pmol of each oligomer and 250 μ Ci of [γ - 32 P] adenosine triphosphate (Amersham) and T4 polynucleotide kinase (DuPont NEN[®], Boston, MA).
10 The labeled oligonucleotides are substantially purified with Sephadex G-25 superfine resin column (Pharmacia & Upjohn). A aliquot containing 10^7 counts per minute of the labeled probe is used in a typical membrane-based hybridization analysis of human genomic DNA digested with one of the following endonucleases (Ase I, Bgl II, Eco RI, Pst I, Xba I, or Pvu II; DuPont
15 NEN[®]).

The DNA from each digest is fractionated on a 0.7 percent agarose gel and transferred to nylon membranes (Nytran Plus, Schleicher & Schuell, Durham, NH). Hybridization is carried out for 16 hours at 40°C. To remove nonspecific signals, blots are sequentially washed at room temperature under increasingly stringent conditions up to 0.1 x saline sodium citrate and 0.5%
20 sodium dodecyl sulfate. After XOMAT AR[™] film (Kodak, Rochester, NY) is exposed to the blots in a Phosphorimager cassette (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA) for several hours, hybridization patterns are compared visually.

VII Microarrays

To produce oligonucleotides for a microarray, the nucleotide sequence described herein
25 is examined using a computer algorithm which starts at the 3' end of the nucleotide sequence. The algorithm identifies oligomers of defined length that are unique to the gene, have a GC content within a range suitable for hybridization, and lack predicted secondary structure that would interfere with hybridization. The algorithm identifies 20 sequence-specific oligonucleotides of 20 nucleotides in length (20-mers). A matched set of oligonucleotides is
30 created in which one nucleotide in the center of each sequence is altered. This process is repeated for each gene in the microarray, and double sets of twenty 20 mers are synthesized and arranged on the surface of the silicon chip using a light-directed chemical process (Chee, M. et al., PCT/WO95/11995, incorporated herein by reference).

In the alternative, a chemical coupling procedure and an ink jet device are used to synthesize oligomers on the surface of a substrate (Baldeschweiler, J.D. et al., PCT/WO95/25116, incorporated herein by reference). In another alternative, a "gridded" array analogous to a dot (or slot) blot is used to arrange and link cDNA fragments or oligonucleotides to the surface of a substrate using a vacuum system, thermal, UV, mechanical or chemical bonding procedures. An array may be produced by hand or using available materials and machines and contain grids of 8 dots, 24 dots, 96 dots, 384 dots, 1536 dots or 6144 dots. After hybridization, the microarray is washed to remove nonhybridized probes, and a scanner is used to determine the levels and patterns of fluorescence. The scanned images are examined to determine degree of complementarity and the relative abundance of each oligonucleotide sequence on the micro-array.

VIII Complementary Polynucleotides

Sequence complementary to the HURIBO-encoding sequence, or any part thereof, is used to decrease or inhibit expression of naturally occurring HURIBO. Although use of oligonucleotides comprising from about 15 to about 30 base-pairs is described, essentially the same procedure is used with smaller or larger sequence fragments. Appropriate oligonucleotides are designed using Oligo 4.06 software and the coding sequence of HURIBO, SEQ ID NO:1. To inhibit transcription, a complementary oligonucleotide is designed from the most unique 5' sequence and used to prevent promoter binding to the coding sequence. To inhibit translation, a complementary oligonucleotide is designed to prevent ribosomal binding to the HURIBO-encoding transcript.

IX Expression of HURIBO

Expression of HURIBO is accomplished by subcloning the cDNAs into appropriate vectors and transforming the vectors into host cells. In this case, the cloning vector is also used to express HURIBO in *E. coli*. Upstream of the cloning site, this vector contains a promoter for β -galactosidase, followed by sequence containing the amino-terminal Met, and the subsequent seven residues of β -galactosidase. Immediately following these eight residues is a bacteriophage promoter useful for transcription and a linker containing a number of unique restriction sites.

Induction of an isolated, transformed bacterial strain with IPTG using standard methods produces a fusion protein which consists of the first eight residues of β -galactosidase, about 5 to 15 residues of linker, and the full length protein. The signal residues direct the secretion of HURIBO into the bacterial growth media which can be used directly in the following assay for activity.

X Demonstration of HURIBO Activity

The assay for HURIBO activity was described in Rosenberg, H. F. and Dyer, K. D. (1995) J. Biol. Chem. 270: 21539-21544. Specifically, 5 l (20 μ g) of a 4 mg/ml solution of yeast tRNA (Catalog # R-9001; Sigma) is added to 0.8 ml of 40 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.0, containing 500 ng of HURIBO. The reaction is stopped at a given time point by adding 0.5 ml of 20 mM lanthanum nitrate with 3% perchloric acid. The t=0 control is prepared by adding the stop solution to the phosphate and HURIBO-containing reaction mixture prior to the addition of yeast tRNA. Stopped reactions are cooled on ice for 15 minutes, and insoluble tRNA is removed by centrifugation. The amount of solubilized RNA was determined from the ultraviolet absorbance difference between the supernatant fraction at 260 nm (A_{260}) and the t=0 control using a standard of 1 unit of $A_{260} = 40 \mu$ g of RNA. Michaelis constant K_m and turnover numbers k_{cat} are determined according to the plot of the amount of solubilized RNA versus time.

XI Production of HURIBO Specific Antibodies

HURIBO that is substantially purified using PAGE electrophoresis (Sambrook, supra), or other purification techniques, is used to immunize rabbits and to produce antibodies using standard protocols. The amino acid sequence deduced from SEQ ID NO:2 is analyzed using DNASTAR software (DNASTAR Inc) to determine regions of high immunogenicity and a corresponding oligopeptide is synthesized and used to raise antibodies by means known to those of skill in the art. Selection of appropriate epitopes, such as those near the C-terminus or in hydrophilic regions, is described by Ausubel et al. (supra), and others.

Typically, the oligopeptides are 15 residues in length, synthesized using an Applied Biosystems Peptide Synthesizer Model 431A using fmoc-chemistry, and coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH, Sigma, St. Louis, MO) by reaction with N-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (MBS; Ausubel et al., supra). Rabbits are immunized with the oligopeptide-KLH complex in complete Freund's adjuvant. The resulting antisera are tested for anti-peptide activity, for example, by binding the peptide to plastic, blocking with 1% BSA, reacting with rabbit antisera, washing, and reacting with radio iodinated, goat anti-rabbit IgG.

XII Purification of Naturally Occurring HURIBO Using Specific Antibodies

Naturally occurring or recombinant HURIBO is substantially purified by immunoaffinity chromatography using antibodies specific for HURIBO. An immunoaffinity column is constructed by covalently coupling HURIBO antibody to an activated chromatographic resin, such as CnBr-activated Sepharose (Pharmacia & Upjohn). After the coupling, the resin is blocked and washed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Media containing HURIBO is passed over the immunoaffinity column, and the column is washed under conditions that allow the preferential absorbance of HURIBO (e.g., high ionic strength buffers in the presence of detergent). The column is eluted under conditions that disrupt antibody/HURIBO binding (eg, a buffer of pH 2-3 or a high concentration of a chaotrope, such as urea or thiocyanate ion), and HURIBO is collected.

XIII Identification of Molecules Which Interact with HURIBO

HURIBO or biologically active fragments thereof are labeled with ^{125}I Bolton-Hunter reagent (Bolton et al. (1973) Biochem. J. 133:529). Candidate molecules previously arrayed in the wells of a multi-well plate are incubated with the labeled HURIBO, washed and any wells with labeled HURIBO complex are assayed. Data obtained using different concentrations of HURIBO are used to calculate values for the number, affinity, and association of HURIBO with the candidate molecules.

All publications and patents mentioned in the above specification are herein incorporated by reference. Various modifications and variations of the described method and system of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Although the invention has been described in connection with specific preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various modifications of the described modes for carrying out the invention which are obvious to those skilled in molecular biology or related fields are intended to be within the scope of the following claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION

- (i) APPLICANT: INCYTE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
- (ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: HUMAN RIBONUCLEASE
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 3
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 - (B) STREET: 3174 Porter Drive
 - (C) CITY: Palo Alto
 - (D) STATE: CA
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 94304
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: To Be Assigned
 - (B) FILING DATE: Herewith
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 08/867,676
 - (B) FILING DATE: 02-JUN-1997
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Billings, Lucy J.
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 36,749
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: PF-0304 PCT
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: 650-855-0555
 - (B) TELEFAX: 650-845-4166

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 163 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:
 - (A) LIBRARY: SININOT01
 - (B) CLONE: 2181484

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

```

Met Val Leu Cys Phe Pro Leu Leu Leu Leu Leu Val Leu Trp Gly
 1             5             10             15
Pro Val Cys Pro Leu His Ala Trp Pro Lys Arg Leu Thr Lys Ala His
      20             25             30
Trp Phe Glu Ile Gln His Ile Gln Pro Ser Pro Leu Gln Cys Asn Arg
      35             40             45
Ala Met Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Tyr Thr Gln His Cys Lys His Gln Asn
 50             55             60

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Thr Phe Leu His Asp Ser Phe Gln Asn Val Ala Ala Val Cys Asp Leu
 65 70 75 80
 Leu Ser Ile Val Cys Lys Asn Arg Arg His Asn Cys His Gln Ser Ser
 85 90 95
 Lys Pro Val Asn Met Thr Asp Cys Arg Leu Thr Ser Gly Lys Tyr Pro
 100 105 110
 Gln Cys Arg Tyr Ser Ala Ala Ala Gln Tyr Lys Phe Phe Ile Val Ala
 115 120 125
 Cys Gly Pro Pro Phe Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Pro Leu Thr Ser Leu Val
 130 135 140
 Pro Val His Leu Asp Ser Asn Ser Leu Arg Ile His Cys Ile Ser Phe
 145 150 155 160
 His Leu Thr

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 875 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:

- (A) LIBRARY: SININOT01
 (B) CLONE: 2181484

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

ACATGTGATA ATGATACTGT TTAAAGAAC AGGGCTCGAA GGGTTAGAGA AGAAAGGCAG 60
 ACAACAGCTT CTGAGCTTTG GACTAATCAC AGCCTCTGTT CTCAGCAGGA GCCCAACAC 120
 TGAGACCAGA AAAGATGGTG CTATGCTTTC CTCTTCTTTT ACTGCTGCTG GTTCTATGGG 180
 GACCAGTGTG TCCACTTCAT GCTTGGCCTA AGCGTCTCAC CAAGGCTCAC TGGTTTGAAA 240
 TTCAGCATAT ACAGCCAAGT CCTCTCCAAT GCAACAGGGC AATGAGTGGC ATCAACAATT 300
 ATACCAACA CTGATGCTT TTTTCTTCTT TTTTCTTCTT TTTTCTTCTT TTTTCTTCTT 360
 CTGTCTGTGA TTTGCTCAGC ATTGTCTGCA AAAATCGTCG GCACAACGTC CACCAGAGCT 420
 CAAAGCCTGT CAACATGACT GACTGCAGAC TCACTTCAGG AAAGTATCCC CAGTGCCGCT 480
 ATAGTGCTGC TGCCCAAGTAC AAATTCTTCA TTGTTGCCTG TGGACCCCCC TTCAGGAAGA 540
 GGCGATTCCC CCTTACAAGT TTGGTTCCCTG TACACTTAGA TAGTAATTCT CTAAGGATCC 600
 ACTGCATTTC CTTTCATTTG ACATAGTTCT GTTACAATTG ATCCACGTTT TCTTTTCTTT 660
 TGTGATTTTC TNGTTCCCGT AGAAGAAAGA AGAAAGGGNT TGGAGAATTC GAGTGCCTAG 720
 GATGCCAGAC CAGAGTTGAG ACAAAGANT AGGATATTTT TGCTTGAGTC GGAACTTTCG 780
 AGAAAGGGAT AGGGAGCCGC AAGAANGTTN GGTTTAACCG GANTTTTCCA AGNTANTGNC 840
 NGGTTCTNGN ANAAACCCTT CCGGGGATTT AAAAA 875

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 150 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:

- (A) LIBRARY: GenBank
 (B) CLONE: 1513102

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

Met Val Leu Cys Phe Pro Leu Leu Leu Leu Leu Val Leu Trp Gly
 1 5 10 15
 Pro Val Cys Pro Leu His Ala Trp Pro Lys Arg Leu Thr Lys Ala His
 20 25 30
 Trp Phe Glu Ile Gln His Ile Gln Pro Ser Pro Leu Gln Cys Asn Arg
 35 40 45
 Ala Met Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Tyr Thr Gln His Cys Lys His Gln Asn
 50 55 60

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Thr	Phe	Leu	His	Asp	Ser	Phe	Gln	Asn	Val	Ala	Arg	Val	Cys	Asp	Leu
65					70					75					80
Leu	Ser	Ile	Val	Cys	Lys	Asn	Arg	Arg	His	Asn	Cys	His	Gln	Ser	Ser
				85					90					95	
Lys	Pro	Val	Asn	Met	Thr	Asp	Cys	Arg	Leu	Thr	Ser	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Pro
			100					105					110		
Gln	Cys	Arg	Tyr	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ala	Gln	Tyr	Lys	Phe	Phe	Ile	Val	Ala
			115				120					125			
Cys	Asp	Pro	Pro	Gln	Lys	Ser	Asp	Pro	Pro	Tyr	Lys	Leu	Val	Pro	Val
	130					135					140				
His	Leu	Asp	Ser	Ile	Leu										
145					150										

What is claimed is:

1. A substantially purified human ribonuclease comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or fragments thereof.
2. An isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence encoding the human
5 ribonuclease of claim 1.
3. A polynucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide sequence of claim 2.
4. A composition comprising the polynucleotide sequence of claim 2.
5. An isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2 or
10 variants thereof.
6. A composition comprising the polynucleotide sequence of claim 5.
7. A polynucleotide sequence which is complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of claim 2 or variants thereof.
8. A composition comprising the polynucleotide sequence of claim 7.
9. An expression vector containing at least a fragment of the polynucleotide
15 sequence of claim 2.
10. A host cell containing the vector of claim 9.
11. A method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a fragment thereof, the method comprising the steps of:
20 a) culturing the host cell of claim 10 under conditions suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and
b) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a substantially purified human ribonuclease having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in conjunction with a suitable
25 pharmaceutical carrier.
13. A purified antibody which specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.
14. A purified agonist which modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.
15. A purified antagonist which decreases the effect of the polypeptide of claim 1.
16. A method for treating a disorder associated with excessive cell proliferation
30 comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 12.
17. A method for treating inflammation comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 12.

18. A method for stimulating cell proliferation comprising administering to a cell an effective amount of the antagonist of claim 15.

19. A method for treating a disorder associated with apoptosis comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the antagonist of claim 15.

20. A method for detecting a polynucleotide which encodes a human ribonuclease in a biological sample comprising the steps of:

a) hybridizing the polynucleotide of claim 7 to nucleic acid material of a biological sample, thereby forming a hybridization complex; and

b) detecting said hybridization complex, wherein the presence of said complex correlates with the presence of a polynucleotide encoding the human ribonuclease in said biological sample.

9	18	27	36	45	54
NAC ATG TGA TAA TGA TAC TGT TTT AAA GAA CAG GGC TCG AAG GGT TAG AGA AGA					
63	72	81	90	99	108
AAG GCA GAC AAC AGC TTC TGA GCT TTG GAC TAA TCA CAG CCT CTG TTC TCA GCA					
117	126	135	144	153	162
GGA GCC CCA ACA CTG AGA CCA GAA AAG ATG GTG CTA TGC TTT CCT CTT CTT TTA					
		M	V	L	C
				F	P
				L	L
171	180	189	198	207	216
CTG CTG CTG GTT CTA TGG GGA CCA GTG TGT CCA CTT CAT GCT TGG CCT AAG CGT					
L L L V L W G P V C P L L H A W P K R					
225	234	243	252	261	270
CTC ACC AAG GCT CAC TGG TTT GAA ATT CAG CAT ATA CAG CCA AGT CCT CTC CAA					
L T K A H W F E I Q H I Q P S P L Q					
279	288	297	306	315	324
TGC AAC AGG GCA ATG AGT GGC ATC AAC AAT TAT ACC CAG CAC TGT AAG CAT CAA					
C N R A M S G I N N Y T Q H C K H Q					
333	342	351	360	369	378
AAT ACC TTT CTG CAT GAC TCT TTC CAG AAT GTG GCT GCT GTC TGT GAT TTG CTC					
N T F L H D S F Q N V A A V C D L L					

FIGURE 1A

2/6

387	396	405	414	423	432
AGC ATT GTC TGC AAA AAT CGT CGG CAC AAC TGC CAC CAG AGC TCA AAG CCT GTC					
S I V C K N R R R H N C H Q S S K P V					
441	450	459	468	477	486
AAC ATG ACT GAC TGC AGA CTC ACT TCA GGA AAG TAT CCC CAG TGC CGC TAT AGT					
N M T D C R L T S G K Y P Q C R Y S					
495	504	513	522	531	540
GCT GCT GCC CAG TAC AAA TTC TTC ATT GTT GCC TGT GGA CCC CCC TTC AGG AAG					
A A A Q Y K F F I V A C G P P F R K					
549	558	567	576	585	594
AGG CGA TTC CCC CTT ACA AGT TTG GTT CCT GTA CAC TTA GAT AGT AAT TCT CTA					
R R F P L T S L V P V H L D S N S L					
603	612	621	630	639	648
AGG ATC CAC TGC ATT TCC TTT CAT TTG ACA TAG TTC TGT TAC AAT TGA TCC ACG					
R I H C I S F H L T					
657	666	675	684	693	702
TTT TCT TTT CTT TTG TGA TTT TCT TCT NGT TCC CGT AGA AGA AAG AAA GGG NTT					
711	720	729	738	747	756
GGA GAA TTC GAG TGC CTA GGA TGC CAG ACC AGA GTT GAG ACA AAA GAN TAG GAT					

FIGURE 1B

765 774 783 792 801 810
ATT TCT GCT TGA GTC GGA ACT TTC GAG AAA GGG ATA GGG AGC CGC AAG AAN GTT

819 828 837 846 855 864
NGG TTT AAC CGG ANT TTT CCA AGN TAN TGN CNG GTT CNG GNA NAA ACC CTT CCG

873
GGG ATT TAA AAA

FIGURE 1C

1	MVLCFP	LLLLLL	VLV	WGP	VCP	LHAW	PKRL	TKAH	WF	EIQ	HIO	2181484
1	MVLCFP	LLLLLL	VLV	WGP	VCP	LHAW	PKRL	TKAH	WF	EIQ	HIO	GI 1513102
41	PSPLQ	CNR	AMSG	INN	YTQH	CKHQ	NTFF	LHDS	FQ	NVA	AVCDL	2181484
41	PSPLQ	CNR	AMSG	INN	YTQH	CKHQ	NTFF	LHDS	FQ	NVA	RVCDL	GI 1513102
81	LSIVC	KNRR	HNCH	QSS	KPV	NMTD	CR	LTSG	KYP	QC	RYSA	2181484
81	LSIVC	KNRR	HNCH	QSS	KPV	NMTD	CR	LTSG	KYP	QC	RYSA	GI 1513102
121	QYKFF	I	VAC	GP	FFR	KRR	FP	LTSL	V	PH	LD	2181484
121	QYKFF	I	VAC	GP	FFR	KRR	FP	LTSL	V	PH	LD	GI 1513102
161	HLT											2181484
149	-	I	L									GI 1513102

FIGURE 2

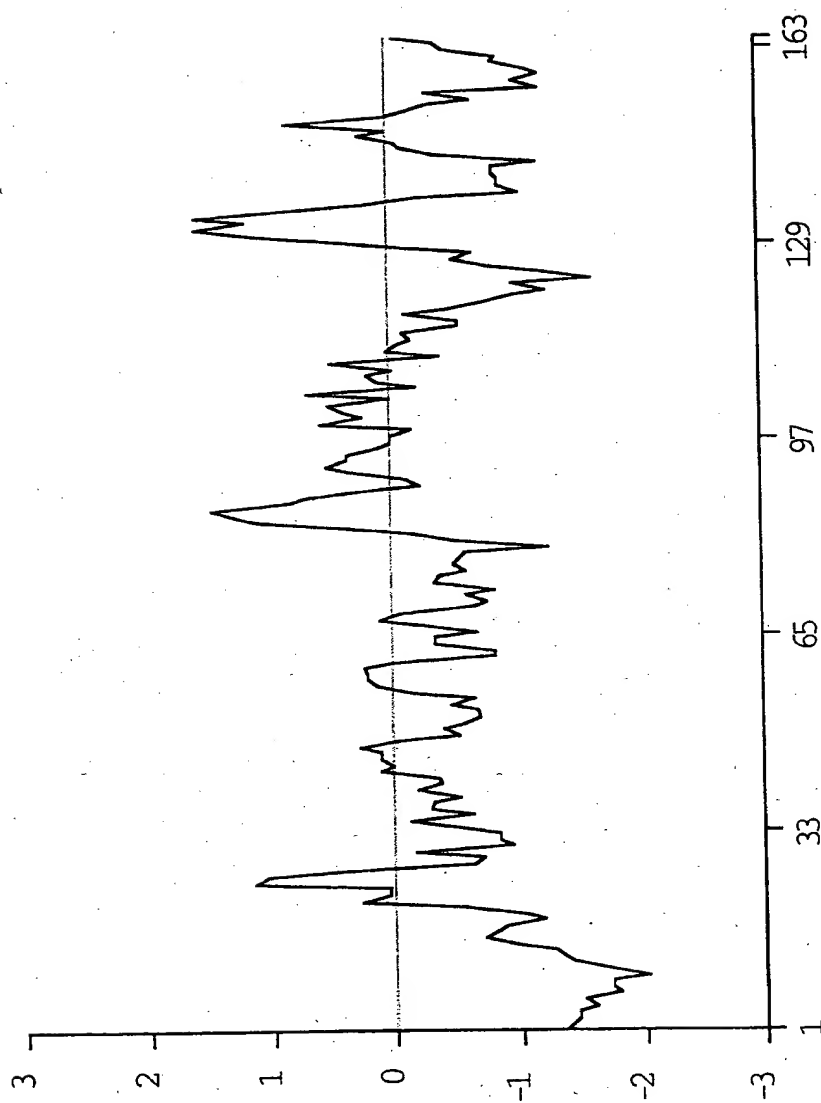


FIGURE 3A

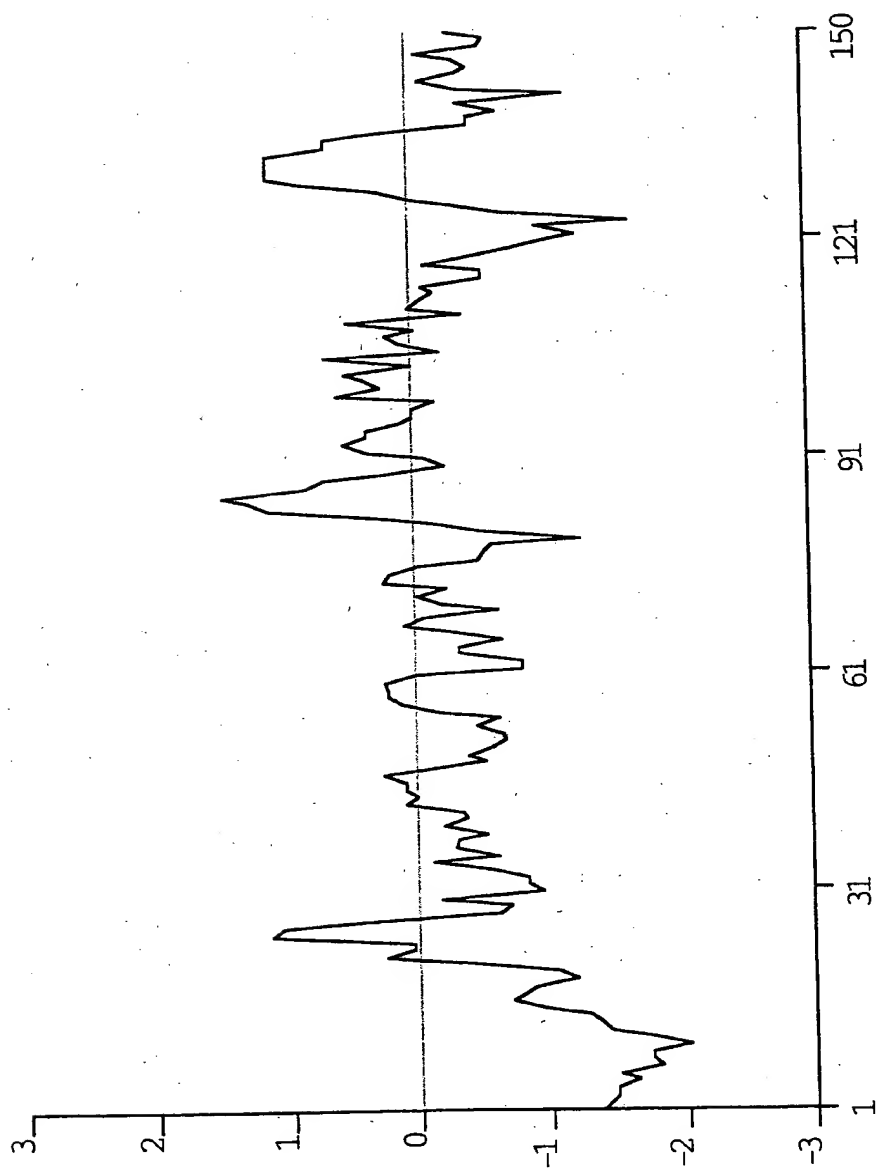


FIGURE 3B